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BATTLE LOOMING AT PEIPING

Nationalists Stationed At All Strategic Points CENTRAL CHINA FIGHTING

Tientsin, December 18.
Peiping, historical capital of China's imperial dynasties, was faced with the threat of being a major battle ground today as General Fu Tsi-yi deployed troops and artillery at all strategic points of the city and ordered the demolition of buildings immediately outside the city walls to prevent Communists from taking cover in them.

At the same time, thousands of labourers are engaged in the construction of an airport within the very centre of the city bordering the Legation Quarter, where foreign diplomats reside.

The scheme provides for a North to South runway and an East to West apron for storing planes.

General Fu Tsi-yi's headquarters claimed today the recapture of the Peiping station, which flanks Tangku, after General Lin Piao's Communist forces had seized it. Fighting, however, is said to be continuing in this area, which actually represents the outskirts of Tangku.

It was also officially announced that Nationalist counter-attacks against the Communists at Suang-ching midway between Peiping and Tangzhou, about 12 miles to the East, and also in the North Western, Western and South Western suburbs, resulting in the recapture of a number of points, including the vital junction of Fengtai, about three miles outside the city walls.

Pengpu HQ Withdraws

Nanking, December 17.
The Nationalist Army headquarters at Pengpu, 120 miles North of Nanking, was today reported to have withdrawn to Chuhsien, only about 25 miles above the Yangtze from the capital, according to a well-informed but unofficial source.

The report has not been confirmed, but credence was given to it by statements, so far not confirmed, that the Communists were moving East and South from the Honan, Anhwei, Kiangsu border region in an apparent attempt to cross the Hwai River near its outlet to Lake Hungtze and cut the railway South East of Pengpu.

This action, if successfully accomplished, would jeopardize all the Nationalist forces in the Pengpu region and further North.—Reuters.

Minor Scale

Independent reports described the military operations around Peiping as "small scale", with the initiative about equally divided. The atmosphere inside the city continues to be tense with heavier military traffic but smaller movement of civilians, who are preferring to remain indoors.

Although no planes have hitherto attempted landings at the Nanyuan airport on the city's Southern outskirts, which continues to be within the range of Communist artillery, it is understood that General Chieh Ching-shan's Civil Air Transport is standing in readiness here to resume flights as soon as possible.

Chiang Kai-shek Still Determined

Nanking, December 17.
Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek is still as determined as ever to carry on the war against the Communists, in spite of growing sentiments among some Kuomintang officials for a negotiated peace, Reuter learned authoritatively today.

High Government sources, who are almost daily in contact with President Chiang, said that so far they have not seen any evidence suggesting a possible change in his determination and conviction that the anti-Communist war should be fought to a bitter end.

One Government official, who cannot be quoted, said that suggestions for President Chiang's resignation to pave the way for a possible Coalition, including

Peace Advocates

Advocates of this course of action are now known to include such high Kuomintang officials as General Chang Chun, ex-Premier, who has been serving in the capacity as adviser to the President, General Chang Chih-ching, Governor for the North-West Province, and the chief Government representative, when Mr. George Marshall was in China to mediate in the civil war, and Dr. Shao Li-tze, ex-Ambassador to Moscow, who has held consistent views for peace.

Authoritative sources said that against the suggestions for his resignation, implied or spoken, the President, so far, remains unshaken and is apparently still optimistic. What underlines this optimism is an almost uniformly gloomy picture remains to be explained.

On the other hand, there is an equally strong group of elements standing alongside President Chiang in opposing any attempts to come to terms with the Communists.—Reuters.

Inside the city defence dums, especially along all outlying areas except the North.

Schools beyond the municipal zones have been either closed or removed inside.

In keeping with the over-North China tension, Tientsin has revised its curfew hours in the municipal area from midnight until 5.00 a.m. and coastal navigation is discontinued between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 a.m.

Chinese reports declare that American Marines held night manoeuvres last night.

Meanwhile, following the action of Nationalist troops in firing on their steamer Hupien yesterday, the British firm of Butterfield and Swire reluctant to continue its regular shipping service until the situation is more clarified and there is an assurance that Chinese guarantees of non-occurrences of such incidents will be carried out.

Butterfield and Swire, now the sole shipping enterprise in North China, are willing to service incoming vessels but do not intend to proceed with the lighterage work, pending iron-clad guarantees.

Chaotic conditions are said to prevail at Tangku, the seaport of Tientsin, with troops looking for a chance to board outward bound vessels.

Serious Turn

A serious military situation for the Nationalists is developing in East Henan province, according to an unusually reliable source to Reuter.

This follows the reports of two days ago that part of the Communist forces of General Liu Po-cheng had suddenly withdrawn to the West across the Honan border.

The source said that there was fear that these troops may be starting a drive on Sinqiang in Southern Honan and Hankow, the Yangtze port in Hupei.

In Sinqiang, General Tang En-po, a Nationalist commander-in-chief of the Nanking-Shanghai area, issued an order today, banning all strikes and unauthorized meetings and parades in the cities within his jurisdiction.

He said that disputes over treatment and welfare must be negotiated peacefully.

Meanwhile, Shanghai's legitimate and clandestine financial and commodity markets regained their composure after yesterday's confusion and near panic caused by the flood of wild rumours.

But although stocks and shares recovered part of their losses, United States dollar remained the same at 60 gold yuan.—Reuters.

General Strike In Rome Passes Quietly

Rome, December 17.
A one-hour general strike in Rome today, called by the Chamber of Labour to protest against the police action in a demonstration of war wounded veterans yesterday, passed off quietly.

Public transport stopped for the first quarter of an hour. Most shops remained open though some pulled their steel shutters half down in case of trouble.

The strike was not approved by the Free Trade Union Movement which recently broke away from the Communist-led Italian Confederation.

Police yesterday broke up demonstrations for increased pensions by Italian wounded ex-servicemen outside the Government headquarters. Several demonstrators and policemen were injured when the veterans fought the police with their artificial limbs.—Reuters.

Bolts In Gear Box: Was It Sabotage?

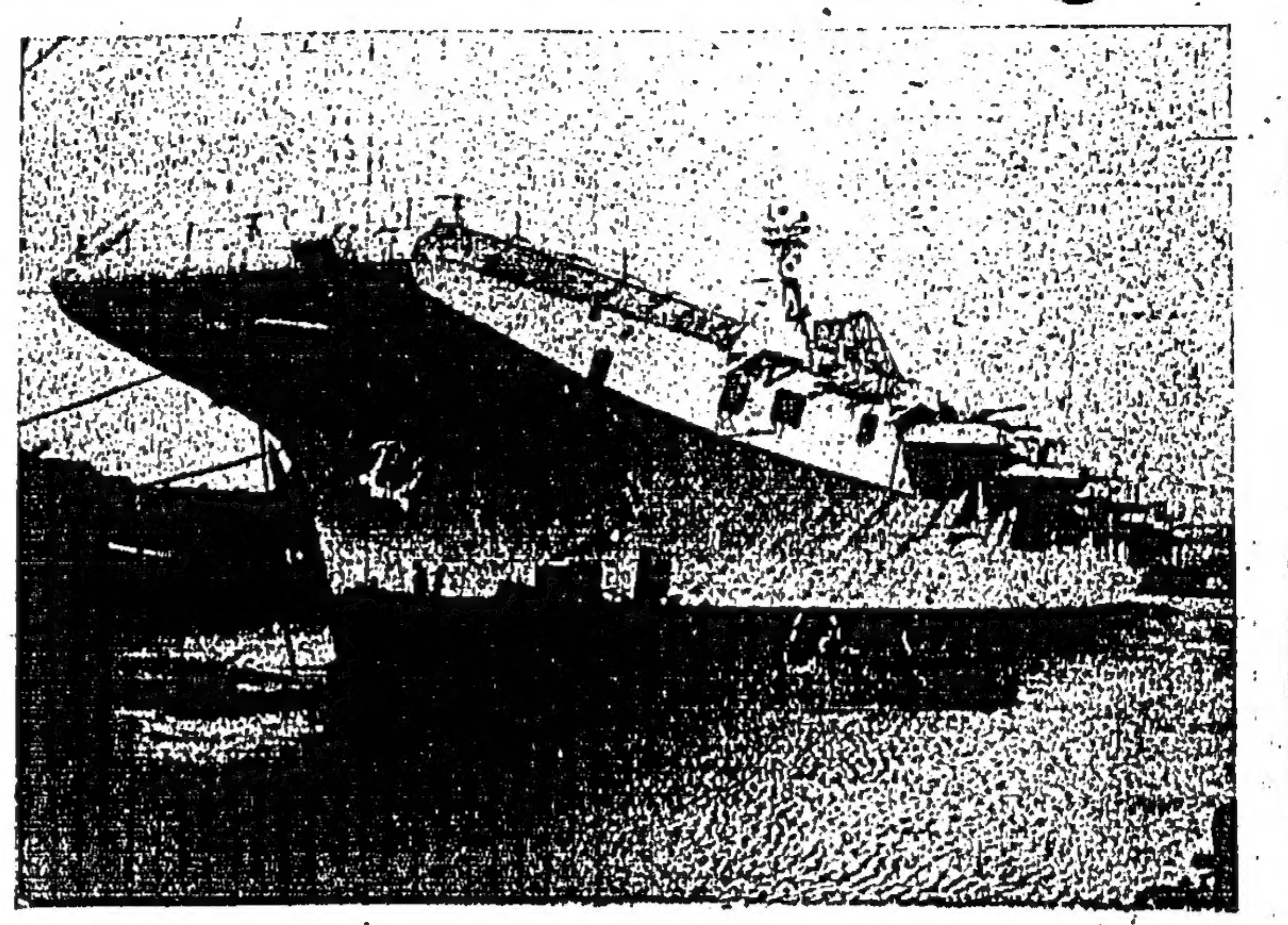


Photo shows the 14,000-ton light fleet carrier, Terrible, which was handed over to the Royal Australian Navy at Devonport on Thursday. Steel bolts were found on Wednesday in the gear box. Investigations are now proceeding.—(AP Photo).

Jap Rayon Workers Join Strike

Tokyo, December 17.
Rayon workers in Western Japan today joined the crippling strike on widely scattered labour fronts as General MacArthur's headquarters alleged that Communist-led nuisance tactics are hurting the occupation.

Japanese labour leaders have always meticulously tried to give the impression that their orders for work stoppage will not affect the phases of industry and utilities serving the interests of Allied occupation.

General MacArthur's report to the Army Department released to the press today said occupation force work was held up by the shipyard workers' strike in the Mitsubishi and Yokohama docks. The report added work was resumed the same day upon direction from SCAP.

There had been a marked tendency among Japanese Communist leaders recently to create the impression among disaffected labour elements that the Japanese Government policy of relating wages demands actually originated from General MacArthur's economic officials or at least has their stamp of approval.

Observers warned that if the announced go-slow stoppage in four of Western Japan's leading rayon plants continues, unsettled for one week it might take as long as six months subsequently to recover the loss to production.

Workers at Imperial Rayon, Kurashiki Textile, Tokyo Rayon and Japan Cellulose companies announced rejection of the compromise formula for minimum wage demands and said an indefinite strike would begin this morning. They said the strike will gradually deepen, beginning with the pulp division workers and eventually paralyse the entire industry.

In the meantime, stoppages continued among the All-Japan Electric Workers' Union and spread to rail operatives of four private lines in the Tokyo area while 20,000 of Japan's 40,000 seamen announced another extension of their strike.—United Press.

U.S. Asks Japanese To Implement Nine-Point Economic Programme

Tokyo, December 17.
The United States Government today directed General Douglas MacArthur to require the Japanese Government to carry out a nine-point economic stabilisation programme designed to achieve more rapid recovery in all fields of Japanese business, finance and livelihood.

An announcement released in Tokyo and Washington outlined the new recovery offensive, which is to follow lines taken by nations of Western Europe under the Marshall plan.

It pointed out that the necessity for such a programme was recognised by General MacArthur in July, 1948 when he urged upon the Japanese Government a programme which was substantially that which he will now direct they carry out.

The Departments of State and Army directed that recovery plans be developed and co-ordinated to pave the way for early establishment of a single exchange rate.

General MacArthur's directives to the Japanese Government, the announcement said, will have these nine objectives:

- (1) Balancing the budget.
- (2) Strengthening and fully enforcing tax collections.
- (3) Tightening credit control extension to insure maximum effect on economic recovery.
- (4) Establishing an effective programme to achieve wage stability.
- (5) Strengthening - and, if necessary, expanding the existing price control programmes.
- (6) Improving foreign trade controls and tightening existing foreign exchange controls where such authority lies with the Japanese Government.
- (7) Improving the present allocation and rationing programme.
- (8) Increasing production of essential indigenous raw material and manufactured products.

Filipino Red Outlines Platform

Manila, December 17.
Mariano Balgos, Communist Party Secretary-General, refused to answer questions before the House of Representatives Committee on Un-Filipino Activities today, unless he be permitted to read a 7,000-word prepared speech.

The motioned address temporarily disrupted the Committee hearing, which contained a comprehensive statement of the Communist Party aims. It strongly attacked the United States.

Representative Cornelio Villareal Cuta, Chairman, told Balgos he had been called to testify and was not attending a political meeting.

Balgos charged, "I am being denied by Democratic right to say what I want."

Amid the verbal clash, Villareal unexpectedly ejected newspapermen, photographers and onlookers from the Committee room. Behind closed doors he convinced Balgos to answer questions only. When the room was reopened, Balgos' testimony closely followed his written text.

The 50-year-old party leader, in a prepared speech, presented a platform similar to that of Chinese Communism. He proposed an immediate programme of a coalition Government and co-operation with Capitalism to industrialise the Philippines. Advance toward full Communism should be gradual, he stated. Balgos said the Philippine masses are gradually beginning to see that their main enemy is United States Imperialism.—Associated Press.

British Soldier Killed In German Border Incident

Hanover, December 17.
A British soldier died today after being shot on Wednesday afternoon in an Anglo-Soviet border incident.

Seven soldiers of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were arrested by Russian border troops while in the narrow strip of territory near Duderstadt, separating the two zones.

The source said that the incident seemed to have started when a soldier chased a wounded rabbit and inadvertently crossed the boundary.

He ran into some woods, a shot was heard, and Russian soldiers with tommyguns marched him away, with his hands above his head.

Reports added that a captain, three unnamed N.C.O.s and five privates went to the zonal barrier at Duderstadt to try to obtain his release and the Russian sentry raised his rifle in the air and fired apparently to attract his superiors.

Immediately, the source said, several Soviet soldiers with tommyguns came from a farm house 200 yards down a road, shouting and firing, and surrounded the unarmed Britons.

One Russian fired a burst which struck Private Knill in the back at what was described as very close range.

The Soviet soldiers ordered them to follow them and the captain told his men to comply, according to the report, but he refused to leave Knill and the Russians did not insist.

As the captives were led to the farmhouse a Soviet sentry, who had been left to guard the captain and the wounded man, suddenly walked away.

The German police informed the headquarters of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Infantry at Goslar and the wounded private and the captain were taken by army ambulance to Goslar.

It was learned that the commanding officer and a public safety officer discussed the release of the captives with the Soviet authorities yesterday without success.

British military authorities, it is understood, will again meet with Soviet officers at the border town of Friedland this morning.—Reuter.

Jews Reported On The Attack

Paris, December 17.
Egypt informed the Security Council today that masses of Jewish troops have started a new attack on Faluja in Palestine, where 2,000 Egyptian troops are engaged.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli military spokesman denied the Cairo reports that Jewish forces have made a major attack on Faluja.

"The only news from Faluja is that it is raining heavily there," Lieutenant Colonel Moshe Perlmutter said.—United Press.

France Asks For Delay In Admission

Paris, December 17.
France proposed to the Security Council today a delay of one month before deciding Israel's application for admission.

The French delegate, Alexandre Parodi, opposed the British resolution for indefinite delay but, said he thought a brief postponement of final action desirable to allow further study of the problem.

Argentina backed Israel's admission and opposed attempts to delay action. The Argentine delegate, Mr. Rodolfo Munoz, said admission of Israel would contribute to peace and harmony in the Middle East.

Mr. Munoz opposed the Syrian proposal to submit the question to the International Court of Justice. "This is of a political character which can only be decided by the Security Council," he said.

He pointed out Argentina had always remained aloof from the Palestine territorial dispute and had supported, only at Security Council and General Assembly moves to strengthen peace. Mr. Munoz said the Council is now confronted with the reality of existence of the State of Israel.

Answering Arab and British arguments that Israel's boundaries have not yet been fixed, he pointed out that every young state went through that stage.—United Press.

HOFFMAN HAS LUNCH WITH SCAP

Tokyo, December 17.
The ECA Director Mr. Paul Hoffman, lunched with General Douglas MacArthur and conferred with General Headquarters economic officials this afternoon while awaiting the departure of a Pan-American plane for the United States.

Mr. Hoffman declined to hold a Press conference, although he talked to newsmen at the Haneda airport on his arrival.

He said he had not been quoted correctly on his comments on future aid to China in Shanghai.—Associated Press.

Busy man's pause



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THE WEATHER

At 0600 GMT (2.00 p.m. HKST) an anticyclone over Hainan is moving SE and another centred SW of Lulu Island is intensifying and spreading SE. Between these two anticyclones a trough from a deepening depression over Manchuria is moving SE across N China. The depression persists over the China Sea W of Taiwan but is almost stationary and filling up.

Today's Forecast—Moderate or fresh ESE winds, cloudy with light rain or drizzle. Improving during the afternoon.

Yesterday's Weather—Maximums 70.3 deg. F. at 10.00 a.m. Minimums 50.5 deg. F. at 10.00 p.m. Sunshine 0.9 hour. Total since Jan. 1—2,478.3 mm—97.46 in. as against an average of 2,187.7 mm—86.57 in.

Readings at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

	10 a.m.	4 p.m.
Baro. at sea level	1012.9	1010.7
Baro. at 100 ft.	1012.9	1010.7
Rel. Humidity	82	80
Dew Point	55	52
Wind Direction	ENE	E
Wind Force	10	10 knots
Tides	Time	Height
High	1107	4.5
Low	2205	2.5
Low	0210	2.5
Low	1229	2.5

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Christmas

Lament

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As East is East and West is West
It's hard to say which is the best.
But pity the man, who to this day
Hasn't tried it either way.

Rose's is made with fresh ripe limes
and sweetened with pure cane sugar.

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ALLEGATION AGAINST PRISON WARDERS MADE

The allegation that defendants received HK\$200 for not assaulting Ho Luk, a remand prisoner, between August 7 and August 18, was made against three Victoria Remand Prison warders and one ex-warder by Detective Sub-Inspector D. S. Roberts at Kowloon yesterday.

DSI Roberts represented the police in the committal proceedings which began before Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr on 15 charges of misfeasance of office, against Timothy Din, warder 341, Gusay Maria dos Santos, warder 130, Sapto Ahmed, warder 342 and Jose Maria dias Azeda, ex-warder.

Assault On Wife Told At Central

An unintentional assault on his wife when she prevented him from committing suicide, was related before Mr. F. X. d'Almada by Inspector T. Cashman at Central yesterday.

Leung So, aged 48, sauce dealer by trade and residing at 223 Hollywood Road, first floor, was charged with causing malicious wounds to his wife on October 10.

The case, Inspector Cashman said, started when defendant got into financial difficulties and, in an attempt to put an end to himself, went into the kitchen and picked up a vegetable knife.

His wife, seeing what he was attempting to do, rushed into the kitchen and tried to stop him.

A scuffle took place and defendant's wife received several lacerations.

Releasing himself, defendant rushed to cut himself, but his wife again rushed at him and both eventually found themselves in the front portion of the house.

An alarm was raised and two police constables nearby responded after notifying their station, they ordered an ambulance and both were taken to the Queen Mary hospital.

At first, said Inspector Cashman, defendant's wife's wounds were considered serious, but they were later found to be only superficial.

Accused was discharged from hospital on November 25 with a fractured leg and head wound. In binding defendant over on \$1,000 for one year, Mr. d'Almada remarked that he should be very thankful for his wife's interference, otherwise he would be a dead man today.

INFORMATION WANTED

Any person or persons who witnessed or arrived shortly after the accident at 21 milestone Castle Peak Road, at 4.30 p.m. on December 12, when private car No. 8070 ran off the road causing injuries to two Europeans, should communicate with Kowloon Traffic Office (Tel. Nos. 60735 or 58620).

According to the prosecution, shortly after Ho Luk arrived at the remand prison on August 7, he was asked by one of the cell mates whether his family was aware of his detention. On his replying in the negative, he was given a pencil and paper to write a message asking his people to send him two meals a day and to pay bearer HK\$40.

"Be Careful!" On the following day, Din, it was alleged, passed defendant's cell and, recognising him as one with whom he had previous business dealings which resulted in mutual dissatisfaction, told Ho to be careful. Later that same day Din paid Ho another visit and offered to take a message to his shop. Ho accepted the offer and wrote the message with a fountain pen Din gave him, specifying that HK\$50 be given to the bearer.

"If the money is paid, no one will harm you in prison," Din was alleged to have said. The sum was paid by Ho's wife when Din called at Ho's shop the next day.

Similar requests were sent by Ho at the instigation of second and third defendants, made on subsequent dates and were likewise paid.

On August 18, after Santos had collected HK\$30 marked money, he was arrested by Detective Sergeant Lee Chau-shing who was hiding in Ho's shop.

On the next day, Funk Yuk, wife of Ho Luk, identified the second and third as two of those to whom she had paid over various sums.

At this stage hearing was formally adjourned for one week.

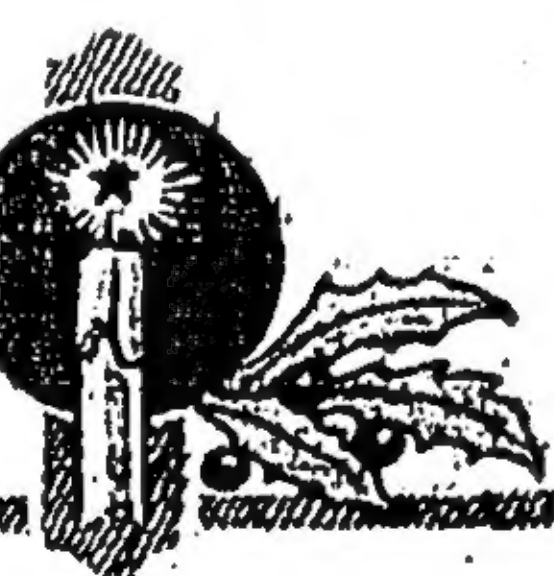
YOUTH GETS EIGHT MONTHS

Wai Kong, a 17-year-old youth, told Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday that the reason why he came back from banishment was to see his mother, who was very sick.

He further stated that he only returned to the Colony two days before his arrest by Detective 1488 at Shanghai Street near Mong Kok Road on December 15, and that he intended to leave in a day or two.

The court decided that he should spend the next eight months in Stanley Prison before sent out of the Colony again; after Sub-Inspector J. H. Evans had revealed the fact that Wai was twice convicted for larceny and was banished for 10 years on July 21 this year.

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Visiting Cardinal



Cardinal Tien Visits Wah Yan College

Cardinal Tien, Archbishop of Paoiping who has been resting in the Colony, is due to return to Paoiping via Shanghai, today by air. Yesterday, he paid an informal visit to Wah Yan College.

PWD Case Pleas To Be Taken

Pleas in the PWD Larceny case, in which Austin Spary and Arthur Frederick May are charged, will be taken at the Supreme Court at 10 a.m. on Monday, when the December Criminal Session opens.

In addition to this case, there are six others on the list, including one of murder, in which a Chinese woman is charged.

The following is the list of cases in which pleas will be taken:

Lee Ping alias Ma Leung-Breach of a Deportation Order; Ng Lun and Tsang Tai-Murder; Kwok Kwong-Larceny by a public servant.

Kwok Kwong and Austin Spary-Larceny by a public servant; Obtaining money by false pretences; Larceny by a public servant and Conspiracy.

Kwok Kwong and Arthur Frederick May-Larceny by a public servant; Falsification of documents with intent to defraud; Conspiracy to defraud.

Yau Lai alias Yau Kut-lai, Chan Tin-ping alias Ko Le Kwai, Chan Moon alias Chan Fat, Leung Sul-wan alias Yin Chai, Hung Yung alias Hung Fat, Leung Koon-lin and Leung Koon-mui-robbery and Receiving stolen property.

Chan Hin-wan (adjourned from last Session)-Wounding with intent.

The Cardinal was met at the College by the Very Reverend Fr. T. F. Ryan and the Reverend Fr. M. C. Corbally, acting Rector.

Addressing the boys in the College theatre, the Cardinal, speaking in Mandarin, said that the purpose of education is not only the acquisition of knowledge but also the formation of character to the practice of a virtuous life.

The boys of Wah Yan College, he said, have a superb opportunity of receiving this full two-fold education.

The Cardinal urged them to profit to the full by their great opportunity and prepare themselves to be responsible, valuable and worthy citizens of their country.

The Cardinal's address was rendered in Cantonese to the students by the Reverend Fr. Francis Chan, one of the teaching staff and an old boy of the College, shown with him in the picture above.

WIDOW PLEADS NOT GUILTY

Pleading not guilty to five counts of obtaining money by false pretences, Tsang Lin, a 26-year-old widow, was remanded for three days by Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday.

It was alleged that defendant obtained, by falsely holding that she could find employment for them in the Tai Wah Knitting Factory, \$22 from Liu Ah-chen, \$23 from Chan Ng-mul, \$6 from Wo Fung-ming, \$15 from Ip King and \$5 from Ip Kun, at 201 Tung Choi Street, first floor, on November 26 and 27.

Injunction Against Kowloon Garage Wanted From Court

An action for an injunction to restrain the Kowloon Garage from maintaining structures adjacent to Nos. 629-635A Nathan Road, Kowloon, was heard before Mr. Justice Reynolds (Acting Puisne Judge), at the Supreme Court yesterday.

The action was brought by the Kwong Tai Co., Ltd., of 2G Western Street, 1st floor, who were represented by the Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro, KC, instructed by Mr. C. Y. Kwan of Messrs. C. Y. Kwan & Company.

The defendants, the Kowloon Garage of 629A Nathan Road, were represented by Mr. Percy Chen instructed by Mr. J. M. d'Almada Remedios.

The plaintiffs claimed to be the registered owners of Nos. 629-635A Nathan Road, Kowloon.

It was alleged that the defendants, as tenants of 629A Nathan Road, had broken into and entered the rear portion of the plaintiffs' land which is adjacent to or at the back of 629-635A Nathan Road and had, without the plaintiffs' consent or authority, erected structures and were using the same as a garage.

The plaintiffs therefore claimed (a) an injunction restraining the defendants, their servants and agents, from entering the said portion of the said land; (b) a declaration that the defendants were not entitled to keep and maintain the said structures; (c) and an injunction restraining the defendants from continuing to maintain and keep their said structures so as to be a nuisance to the plaintiffs; (d) costs and (e) such other relief as the Court might give.

Defendants claimed that at all material times the premises were in use as a garage and that they had been so used during the past 10 years.

Mr. d'Almada said that the defendants admitted that the plaintiffs were owners of the land, but justified their occupation of it on the ground that they, the defendants, were tenants.

Mr. d'Almada submitted that on the authority of the judgment delivered by Sir Henry Blackall in the Wong v. Poon case, the onus was on the defence to begin.

After Mr. Percy Chen had replied to Mr. d'Almada's submissions, Mr. Justice Reynolds ruled that as the essential issue was whether or not the defendants were tenants or trespassers, the onus was on the defence to begin.

The defendants opened the case for the plaintiffs and their evidence had been called, hearing was adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 28.

"Marine Engine" Case Continued At Central

The "Marine Engine" case against John Chalmers Horton, William Frederick Smith and Robert George Stewart, alleged to have conspired to steal two marine engines from the Naval Authorities, was continued before Mr. Hin-shing Lo at Central yesterday.

Three other men, Chang Chui, Chau Yuen and Denis Khan, were charged with receiving the two engines knowing that they were stolen property.

Horton was additionally charged with larceny of the two engines, forging a permit on June 30 and uttering a forged document.

P. J. Griffiths appeared for Horton, Y. K. Kan for Smith, M. A. de Silva for Stewart, Cheung, and Khan and A.S.C. Corbier for Chan.

Arthur George Miller said that on June 30 this year he accompanied Sgt. Dempster in a taxi outside the Naval Dockyard. They followed the lorry, about a hundred yards behind, to Master's Wharf at North Point. There witnesses saw a man standing near a corner of the road leading to the wharf. Later he found out that the man was first defendant. Witness kept a watch on the unloading of the lorry and recognised the last three defendants there, supervising.

The case was then adjourned to Tuesday.

Changes In Police Force

The following changes took place in the police force on December 15:

Detective Sub-Inspector D. H. Taylor, transferred to Kowloon CID Headquarters in place of DSI C. Pope who has gone Officer-in-Charge CID Yau-mat Division vice DSI J. R. Sykes who has been posted CID Eastern Division.

Detective Sub-Inspector D. S. Hing, who has been with the Shamshuipo CID for the past two years, has been transferred to Western. His place will be taken by Sub-Inspector Braun of the Water Police.

DSI W. J. Wall came out from Police Station and has gone to Officer-in-Charge, CID Kowloon City, to replace Mr. H. T. Matches who resigned from the force some time ago.

Detective Sub-Inspector D. L. Davies of the Special Branch has gone to Officer-in-Charge, CID Kowloon City, to replace Mr. H. T. Matches who resigned from the force some time ago.

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Opium Divan Keeper Gaoled

When an opium divan case was called before Mr. F. X. d'Almada at Central yesterday, a man came from the body of the court and admitted he was the keeper, not the man in the dock.

He explained that before the trial he had gone out to buy cigarettes and left Lai Kuan, the accused, to look after the place for him.

Lai Pik, the self-confessed keeper, was sentenced to six months and Lai, who had a previous conviction for returning from banishment, was given three months and six weeks. The sentences to run consecutively. He was also recommended to be re-banished.

The only smoker was fined \$125 or 20 days.

The weekly sketching class of the Hong Kong Art Club will be held in the New Territories on Sunday. Members are to assemble at the Kowloon Star Ferry at 10.20 a.m.

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A TRULY STARTLING ACHIEVEMENT!

A SUPERB WRIST WATCH THAT RINGS!



Solo Agents
GILMAN & CO. LTD.
(Vulcains are obtainable at all dealers.)

On your wrist or on a table, Vulcain Cricket will wake you at the very minute you choose... set it for a rendezvous, an interesting broadcast, mailing time, for a boat or a train you must catch—ALL DAY, Vulcain Cricket serves you—FOR YEARS, because it's a fine precision watch from the finest craftsmen in the world!

Drink Rheingold

The Most Wanted Beer

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Give us a chance and we will do the rest. Payment will be made for all goods and services. Write to: 22512 or 24354

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

20 Words \$2 for 1 insertion
\$1 for every additional insertion
10 cents every additional word per insertion
(Alternate Insertions 10% Extra)

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, PERSONAL \$5 per insertion of 25 words. 25 cents every additional word per insertion.
Classified Advertisements, accepted up to 5 p.m. for publication in the following day's paper.

Replies for the Following Box Nos. are awaiting collection.

Nos. 675, 679, 690.

Replies will be forwarded to the Advertiser if requested on the original form which should bear their name and address.

A suitable announcement will be inserted Free of Charge if Advertiser's requirements are satisfactorily answered.

WANTED KNOWN

CHEAP SALE. Ready stock American fancy plastic cups and saucers, assorted colours, whole sale only. Please apply Room 328, Prince's Bldg.

BOOK Dutch bulbs arriving 30th Gladstall blue varieties: Orchid Lilac, Roses, January 15th—Calla, Anemones, Paeonia Bienen, Dahlias—Anglo-Chinese Trad. Inc. 84, Pedder Building, third, 20053.

HOLLYWOOD STORE—Ladies' wear for all occasions including Evening, Afternoon, Cocktail, Dinner and Day Dresses in all latest shades and exclusive designs. Autumn and Winter Sports and Dressy Suits and Coats. Chic Blouses, Skirts, Blouses and Black suits. Wide range of variety, Sizes: 8 to 22. Also Dainty Costume Jewellery, Handbags and Shoes (Size 5½-7). Room 206, Melbourne Hotel, Tel. 59168. Business hours: 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

RUGS Manufacturers and Exporters Peking and Tientsin Carpets and Rugs. Peking Art Rug Company Room No. 8-9 Lucky apartment, corner of Hankow and Peking Road, Kowloon.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

MAY BE BOOKED AT THE SWINDON BOOK STORE, 25 NATHAN ROAD, TEL. 50327

CARPETS & RUGS—Genuine Peking and Tientsin, lovely designs and colourings, various sizes. Come and inspect at The China Rug Co., Kowloon Building, 4th Floor (Opposite Hong Kong Hotel), Queen's Road, Central.

NEWLY ARRIVED Underwood Typewriters, standard and portable, finest typewriter ribbons and carbon papers, obtainable at The World Typewriter Co., 48, Wellington Street, Hong Kong. Tel. 20508

RENOMMEE Imported and Locally made Autumn dresses, suits, coats, 503 Victoria House, 5, Wyndham Street.

LADIES we have at your service all specialized operations for Helene Curles cool waves, machineless oil perms, hairdyes & manicure—ROSE MARIE Beauty Parlor—Phone 50384—43, Hankow Rd., Kowloon.

DANCING LESSONS

BALLROOM DANCING—"Made Easy" for you. Latest Variations Specialities—"Rumba, Samba, Tango, Jitterbug". (Enquiries 1-3 PM)—Tony Hudson, 512 China Building.

PREMISES WANTED

AMERICAN pilot and wife desires room with bath. Reply Box 688 "China Mail".

FOR SALE

CIGARS FOR SALE Dutch cigars about 20,000 in 25's and 50's in cellophane wooden boxes. Whole lot only for \$2,600.00. Tel. 33324 or write P.O. Box 868.

ONE PHILIPS eight-tube Aero radio, practically new. \$850. No offers. Reply Box 689, "China Mail".

FUR COAT. Only \$750! Lady's new, brown, fox fur overcoat with hand-bag. Latest Parisian style. Box 688 "China Mail".

PLASTIC Tablecloths boys' pyjamas at exceedingly low prices. F. S. Louis & Co. Bank of China Bldg., 4th Floor.

PILOT RADIOS: Same reliable pre-war quality now obtainable at popular prices, made possible only by increased demand and large sales. World Reception Models from \$120 each. Obtainable at all the better dealers or direct from: Colonial Agencies, Teakcochey Bldg., 14 Queen's Road, Phone 26319.

CHINA MAIL XMAS CARDS at 50 cents each, with envelope to match. Obtainable at all leading Book Stores and "China Mail" Office.

NOTICE TO MARINERS NO. 29 OF 1948

HONG KONG WATERS

Western Approaches
Wreck light-buoy replaced by Wreck buoy.

Position.—Lat. 22° 20' 24" N., Long. 113° 56' 00" E. (approx.).

Details.—The wreck marking light-buoy has been withdrawn and replaced by green conical buoy.

Remarks.—Notice to Mariners No. 20/45 is hereby cancelled.

Charts affected.—1180.-3026.-3681.

Authority.—Marine Department, Hong Kong.

J. JOLLY,
Director of Marine.
Marine Office,
Hong Kong, Dec. 16, 1948.

POLICE NOTICE

Will any person or persons who witnessed an accident or arrived shortly after the accident at 21 milestone Castle Peak Road, at 4.30 p.m. on December 12, 1948, when a Private Car No. 9070 ran off the road causing injuries to two Europeans, please communicate with Kowloon Traffic Office.

Tel. Nos. 50735 or 58629.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

December 17, 1948.

WAR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS STORES

By Order of the Commander, Royal Army Ordnance Corps HQ Land Forces, the following item, lying at Ordnance Depot, Shamshui, will be sold by tender:—

32,820 prs. Boots Ankle Indian Pattern.

1. Application to view samples will be made to CRAOC HQ Land Forces, Queen's Road East between 1000 and 1200 hrs daily.

2. Forms of tender will be issued on receipt of \$500.00 earnest money, returnable on completion of sale.

Cheques in respect of earnest money must be made payable to Command Cashier, Hong Kong.

3. Date for closing of tenders will be 12 o'clock, December 30, '48.

SICS AND MULLARD RADIOGRAM

The Better & Cheaper Radio and Radiogram in town. Guaranteed for one year. Free service and parts repaired.

You can get a New SICS or Mullard Radiogram by trading in your old one at part payment or pay on easy installment terms.

YEUNG KWONG RADIO CO.

112, Nathan Road, Kowloon. Tel: 50446

TIME THE AMERICAN WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

FOR NEWS OF YOUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD

And you can read exactly the same clear, concise, uncoloured report

TODAY

IN TIME'S PACIFIC OVERSEAS EDITION

Sole Distributors: THE NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE LTD.

Windsor House.

Gaol Sentence For Misleading Police

Lai Choi, a private watchman employed by the China Construction Co. at Cha Kwo Ling, went off to sleep between 1 and 2 o'clock on the morning of December 9, and woke up to find that the magazine he was employed to look after had been broken into.

When he found that four sticks of dynamite and two bags of gun powder had been stolen, he got scared and decided to concoct an armed robbery story.

He told Mr. Wheeler, the foreman, that while he was patrolling the new building, which was under construction about 30 yards from the magazine, about 2 a.m. he heard the noise of someone opening the magazine door.

When he came in sight of the storehouse, he said, he saw about 10 men, one of whom was armed, taking out explosives. He challenged them and, on receiving no reply, courageously opened fire on them. The robbers, he claimed, returned the fire with interest.

Luckily for him, according to his report, the other watchman (who had been asleep) arrived at that precise moment, and together they scared the armed robbers off.

VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICE

On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and EVERY Saturday and Sunday Night the 20 minute service from 9.00 p.m. will be extended to 12.00 Mid-night.

THE HONG KONG & YAUMATI FERRY CO., LTD.
Hong Kong, Dec. 17, 1948.

FACTORY REBUILT.

Standard Typewriters, Calculators.

With nice appearance and good operation.

Obtainable at
The WORLD
Typewriter Co.
46 Wellington Street. Tel. 20506.

NOTICE

Foreign Export Firm in Shanghai with A1 Connections and Agents throughout the World, seeks local firms to act as Representative here or co-operation. Results assured, pending orders on hand. All replies treated strictly private & confidential. Apply to Box No. 890, "China Mail".

SICS AND MULLARD RADIOGRAM

The Better & Cheaper Radio and Radiogram in town. Guaranteed for one year. Free service and parts repaired.

You can get a New SICS or Mullard Radiogram by trading in your old one at part payment or pay on easy installment terms.

YEUNG KWONG RADIO CO.
112, Nathan Road, Kowloon. Tel: 50446

Father Gives Son Chance To Behave

A father who had reported his son to the police, yesterday decided to give him a chance and expressed his willingness before Mr. F. X. d'Almada to sign a surety bond of \$500 for his son's good behaviour for the next 12 months.

The son, Au Kam-mei, an 18-year-old student, pleaded guilty to obtaining four bottles of brandy from the Welcome Store, purporting them to have been ordered by his father.

The facts of the case, as outlined by Detective Inspector Siu, was that, on December 4, defendant went to the store in question and in his father's name obtained one bottle of brandy.

As nothing happened, defendant went again on December 11, and obtained a further three bottles.

The clerk who served him thought the matter over and phoned the father, who denied that he had made the orders.

The father reported the matter to the police and his son was arrested and charged.

It was also disclosed by the prosecution that defendant had contracted a debt with one of his fellow students to the amount of \$32, which the inspector said had been settled by the father.

Mr. d'Almada bound defendant over in the sum of \$500 with the father as surety.

QUARANTINE

Quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from Amoy on account of smallpox. It was officially announced yesterday.

Counterclaim Hearing Adjourned

The hearing of a counterclaim for HK\$21,313.40 before the Chief Justice, Sir Leslie Gibson, at the Supreme Court yesterday, was adjourned until 10 a.m. on January 25 next year.

The counterclaim, made by Deng Ning-yuen, sole proprietor of the Chung Shing Company, scrap iron dealers, is against the Yuen Dah Iron Works.

The Yuen Dah Iron Works had lodged a claim against the Chung Shing Company for \$9,071.60. The statement of claim was that by an agreement dated March 26, 1948, the Yuen Dah Iron Works would supply the Chung Shing Company with 1,400 tons of scrap iron, and further that the latter were to pay a contract price to the Iron Works within one month from March 26.

Defendants claim against defendants was for balance due for goods sold and delivered.

Defendants, the Chung Shing Company, at yesterday's hearing admitted the claim, but filed a counterclaim.

The case for the defendant, who is represented by Mr. B.A. Bernacchi instructed by Mr. A.S.K. Lau, is that he entered into contract to purchase 4,400 tons of scrap iron at \$40 a ton.

An agreement was made to the effect that no further payment until a certain period was reached, as not all contract goods were up to specifications.

Taking delivery of 693.95 tons, further payment of \$2,000 was made. No other delivery was made, despite repeated requests. Up to May 20 no scrap iron was delivered and defendants were therefore forced to purchase in the open market to make up the deficiency.

The total cost of purchase from the open market was \$55,385. Defendants thereby claimed they sustained loss of \$27,385.

The defence therefore, giving credit to plaintiffs for \$8,071.60 asked this to be set-off against the sum of \$27,385 and asked leave to counterclaim for \$21,313.40.

Yesterday's hearing was spent mainly in the examination and cross-examination of witnesses, after which the case was adjourned.

The Yuen Dah Iron Works is represented by Mr. A.J. Clifford instructed by Mr. A.Y. Hon.

POLES TO SERVE PAKISTAN

London, December 16. More than 30 Polish officers left London by air tonight on a specially chartered flight for Karachi.

They were members of the Polish Resettlement Corps in England who had volunteered for the Pakistan Air Force.—Reuter.

LARGEST BABY IN EUROPE

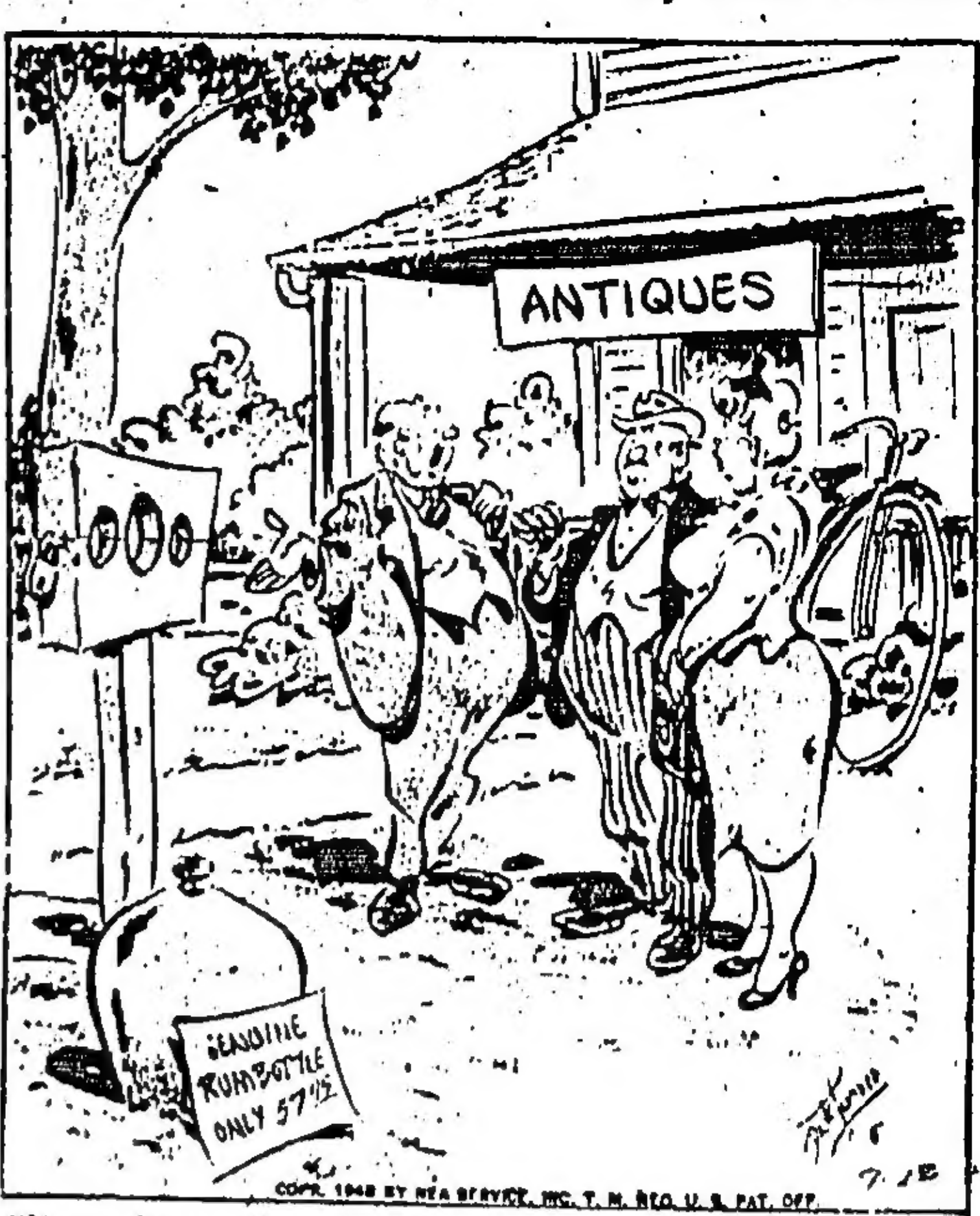
Brussels, December 17. When Madame Hitelet gave birth to her nineteenth baby, the doctor attending her claimed it was the largest baby ever born in Europe.

The baby, which died shortly after birth, weighed 15 pounds four ounces.—Associated Press.

Tuesday will be Ladies Day at the weekly luncheon of the Hong Kong Rotary Club. Rotarian George Lin and Family Orchestra will entertain the Rotarians and their guests with Christmas carols.

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"Not only are these stocks a genuine antique, but they may save you some money on baby-sitters!"

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE By Shepard Barclay

TWO STRINGS TO A BOW

IT IS OFTEN wise to have two strings to your bow instead of one. If you can, that is why it is better to play some slam hands in a Trump contract than in a suit. If your side has two suits that fit together pretty well, and you select one of those suits for the trump, you may be sunk if the opponents' cards in the suit chosen happen to be unevenly divided, whereas if you had picked your other suit, you would have had a favourable split. In a No Trump contract, however, you may not have to guess which suit is better split. Whoever does may furnish you enough tricks to make your contract.

an instant trick in the suit, which was cashed as soon as the heart loser was taken.

The club people were luckier because West led anything except a diamond, due to his guarded K. These declarers were able to take out trumps, give up the first or second trick in hearts and then use the remainder of the suit to discard one loser each in diamonds and spades.

The No Trumpers were out of luck in only one instance, where the declarer was North and East led a diamond. But where South was the declarer at No Trumps, he had a very comfortable feeling after West led the spade 5. He saw, upon counting, that if either clubs or hearts divided evenly he could stand a 4-1 break in the other suit. So, when hearts failed to divide, he gave up a trick, won the return, and so scored four hearts, five clubs, two spades and a diamond.

S 10 3 2
H A K Q 5 4
D 5 2
C A Q 6
S Q 9 8
H 10 9 6
D K 7 4 3
C 7 3

(Dealer: North. Neither side vulnerable.)

North	East	South	West
1 H	Pass	2 C	Pass
3 H	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 H	Pass	6 NT	Pass

There was great variety in the bidding of this deal at the several tables of a tournament. Most North-South pairs reached a small slam, some in hearts, some in clubs and some in No Trumps. All of the heart declarers were unfortunate in that East was the leader and of course he plan to encircle the club Q opened a diamond. That set up

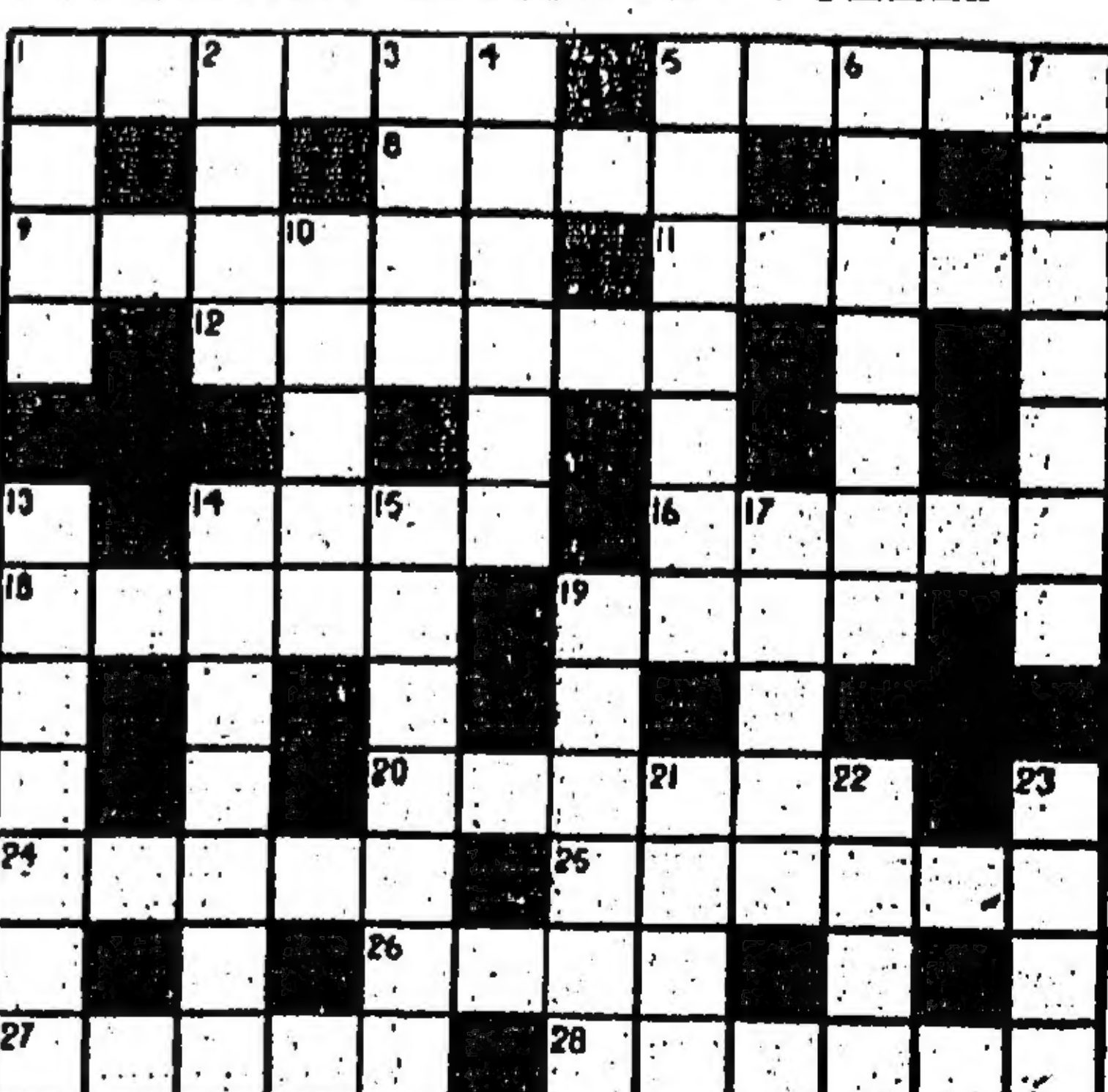
Tomorrow's Problem

S A K Q
H D 2
D A J 8 7 5
C K 8 8
S 10 9 8 4
H A 7
D 6 4 3
C Q 7 3

(Dealer: East. Neither side vulnerable.)

After South ruffs the third heart in the dummy, how should he plan to encircle the club Q so vital to his club game?

A BRITISH CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

1 Song. 18 Lesson.
5 Modify. 19 Rim.
8 Actual. 20 Bring to
9 Prohibit. light.
11 Common- 24 Lucid.
place. 25 Solitary.
12 Infer. 26 Flat.
14 Saucy. 27 Taut.
16 Artist's 28 Shortage.
stand.

Down

1 Dull yellow. 14 Model.
2 Animal fat. 15 Umpire.
3 Dry. 17 Once more.
4 Subtract. 18 Banished.
5 Changed. 21 Geometrical
6 Obese. shape.
7 Shake. 22 Rond.
10 Besiege. 23 Legend.
13 Boan.

Yesterday's Crossword

ACROSS:—1 Cross, 4 Adapts
8 Opined, 10 Error, 12 Nipped
14 Senator, 15 Core, 16 Comments
20 Tissues, 22 Earn, 23 Seasons
27 Ascent, 29 Pursue, 30 Tocsin,
31 Redden, 32 Litter.

DOWN:—1 Cross, 2 Alien, 3

Scent, 5 Deep, 6 Pardon, 7
Struts, 9 Diocese, 11 Recross, 13
Present, 15 Enmity, 16 Ascess, 18
Shun, 20 Temper, 21 Shamed, 24
Aloft, 25 Onset, 26 Slings, 28
Sarc.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Intercontinent Corporation, of 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, announces the appointment of Mutual Trust Company of Holland House, Hong Kong, as their sole distributors for all

ANSKO PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES for S. China, Hong Kong and Macao

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30, ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK CITY

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Sole Distributors: 5, Queen's Road Tel. 25509

Stilwell Report Was Among 'Pumpkin Papers'

Washington, December 16.

The late General Joseph Stilwell reported in 1938 that the Chinese Communists had the only definite plan for fighting the Japanese. This is according to the third batch of the spy case "pumpkin papers" released by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

General Stilwell, then a colonel serving as military attaché in Hankow, sent a confidential message to Washington saying that Chiang Kai-shek was not pushing the plan because its success would mean passing of power to the Reds.

The Committee said the Stilwell message was among several hundred top-secret State Department documents alleged to have been handed to Whittaker Chambers in 1937-38 for delivery to a Russian agent. The second set of papers, made public earlier today, indicated that the State Department officials had sought to hush up the 1938 trade talks with Hitler to spare the Democratic administration political embarrassment.

The chief importance of General Stilwell's message, as far as the spy case is concerned, is that part of it was sent in one of the Government's most confidential codes. At the time the message was sent, the Sino-Japanese fighting was stalemated.

Half-Hearted

General Stilwell said: "On the Chinese side, only the Reds have a definite plan, the essence of which is adoption of guerrilla warfare on a wide scale and mobilization of the masses."

RADIO

This is Radio Hong Kong, broadcasting on a frequency of 845 kilocycles per second and on 9.52 megacycles per second in the 31 metre band.

12.30 p.m.—Daily Programme Summary.
12.32 p.m.—Light Orchestra Selections with Anne Jamison and Tito Galarza to sing.
1.15 p.m.—News, Weather Report and Announcements.
1.25 p.m.—Interlude.
1.30 p.m.—"Band Stand", Palace Orchestra.
1.45 p.m.—Work Band conducted by Denis Wright with Iris Lawrence at the Piano.
2.00 p.m.—Close Down.
6.00 a.m.—Programme Summary.
6.01 p.m.—Unit Requester: Linda Gater, Gilling-LAB, ROME, Kowloon (Studio).
7.00 p.m.—World and Home News (London Relay).
7.15 p.m.—Carroll Gibbons "On the Air" (Studio).
7.30 p.m.—"Grand Hotel", Albert Sanders and Palm Court Orchestra with Victoria Sladen (Voice).
8.00 p.m.—"From the Editorials" (London Relay).
8.10 p.m.—"Saturday Round-Up" from Hong Kong Broadcasting 20 years ago (Studio).
8.25 p.m.—Sports Results (Studio).
8.30 p.m.—"Night at the Ballet", Symphony Orchestra.
9.00 p.m.—"I married a German", written and produced by Marjorie Bank (HUTCH).
10.00 p.m.—Radio News Reel (London Relay).
11.15 p.m.—Weather Report.
11.30 p.m.—Music for Dancing.
10.30 p.m.—Description of Play on the 3rd Day of the 1st Test Match between the MCC and South Africa (London Relay).
11.00 p.m.—Weather Report and Close Down.

COMING TO THE

Lee Theatre

WARNER BROS. MY WILD IRISH ROSE DENNIS MORGAN

DAVID BUTLER
COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR!

HONG KONG LIGHT ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

GRAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

AT

HONG KONG HOTEL GRIPPS SUNDAY, 19th December at 9 P.M.

BUFFET AND BAR

BOOKINGS:—HONG KONG HOTEL MOOTIES

India And The Commonwealth

New Delhi, December 16.

A draft resolution approving India's adherence to the British Commonwealth was passed in the Subjects Committee of Congress here today, strongly supported by the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru.

It will be submitted to the open session of Congress on Saturday.

Replaying in the debate on foreign policy, Pandit Nehru declared that India's refusal to be part of the Commonwealth would close their portals to wider contacts. The relationship proposed is one of consultations for mutual benefit and will not tie India down in any way, he added.—Reuter.

BRITON INJURED IN SPAIN

Santander, December 17.

The British Vice-Consul in Bilbao, Richard Ricketts, was gravely injured near here today when the car in which he was travelling to Bilbao overturned.

The Spanish chauffeur and a mining engineer, Eduardo Sando, accompanying Mr. Ricketts, suffered only slight scratches and bruises.

Mr. Ricketts is in hospital in Santander with very severe head injuries and his condition is very grave. The cause of the accident was not determined.—Associated Press.

Pat On The Back For Reuters

Melbourne, December 16.

Mr. R. Henderson, Chairman of the Australian Associated Press, told the annual meeting today that their partnership with Reuters has proved one of the wisest things the Association has done.

It had enabled them, he said, to establish a highly satisfactory news service from its own correspondents in South East Asia and the Pacific area. The increased importance to Australia of happenings in Japan, China and Indonesia had justified them.

The dollar shortage had proved one of the year's most difficult problems, Mr. Henderson added. An adequate world news coverage could not be obtained unless the Association were allowed more dollars.

The Australian Government had rejected a request for extra dollars corresponding to rising costs, he said. It therefore, in effect, would not permit them to maintain the service at the level agreed with the Government a year ago as an absolute minimum.

Any interference with basic news would be gravely detrimental to the national interest, Sir Keith Murdoch, President of the Australian section of the

LEE THEATRE

ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE

CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE & QUEEN'S RD. 2

BOOKING HOURS: 11.00 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. daily

SHOWING TODAY At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15, & 9.20 P.M.

You've never seen the like of it—NOW YOU'LL FEEL THE CLUTCH OF IT!

"THE BEAST WITH 5 FINGERS"

WARNER'S Supernatural Super-hit! ALDA: KING-LORRE

ALSO CAVALCADE OF DANCE MORNING SHOW SUNDAY AT 11.30 A.M. ONLY

CARTOON PROGRAMME COLOUR BY TECHNICOLOR! AN M-G-M PICTURE

U.S. Officers In China On A Day-To-Day Basis

Shanghai, December 17.

The Chinese Government at Nanking is on its own as far as assistance and advice from the U.S. Army Advisory Group administration headquarters in Nanking is concerned. Like the U.S. Navy at Tsingtao, however, it is carrying on, on a day to day basis, the actual training work in Formosa.

The Nanking Headquarters of the U.S. Army said that Major General David G. Barr and a few of his top officers were still there. But an estimated 90 per cent of effective have moved out, including the entire air force contingent. Sales commissary, Post Exchange, Army Post Office, Officers Club and the dispensary were closed and staff members were all moved out to Shanghai and Japan and their dependents were cleared out.

The Shanghai detachment has been drastically reduced with the reduction of numbers daily. However, in Formosa the Army said that so far it had not reduced operations or halted activities in which it has been directing the training of Chinese troops, infantry tactics and organizational administrative details.

Day To Day Basis

However, Army officials here have little detailed information from Formosa but as far as was known it was believed to be carrying on a day to day basis.

A U.S. Navy source said that he was still carrying on training duties at Tsingtao, instructing the Chinese Navy in tactics, light gunnery and navigation. Although there are no orders yet to slow down at Tsingtao, it is known to be on a day to day basis there. Plans have been made to take the school where or when.

The air force which has been "advising" the Chinese Air Force in Chengtu, provincial capital of Szechuan, was said to be maintaining a skeleton staff there, but not on the scene when it was in full operation.—United Press.

CHECK POINTS IN BERLIN

Berlin, December 16.

Check points for civilian vehicles carrying loads from the Eastern sector of Berlin to the Western zones have been established, the Soviet sector police headquarters announced today. Special permits from the Soviet Central Commandatura will be needed. Observers believe the new order will virtually end legal trade between the Soviet sector and the rest of Berlin.—Reuter.

SHOWING TODAY KING'S At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

YOU CAN'T RESIST "Temptation" FINE MOTION PICTURE

Also Latest 20th Century-Fox Movietone News

Tomorrow Morning Show At 11.30 a.m. Only

THE INCREASINGLY POPULAR VARIETY PROGRAMME

Made up of Selected Short Subjects: SPORTS TOPIC, COLOR CARTOONS, THREE STOOGES, BILLY GILBERT AND ANDY GYLDE COMEDIES. AT REDUCED PRICES.

QUEEN'S ALHAMBRA

Showing Today At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

A NEW MICKEY ROONEY IN HIS GREATEST ROLE!

M-G-M's startling story of a sidewalk savage who slashed his way into the heart of a girl uptown!

ADDED! LATEST NEWS OF THE DAY!! Special News at the QUEEN'S—First Films from Hsuehchow War Front—Mme. Chiang Arrives in U.S.—American Film Stars Meet Britain's Queen!

QUEEN'S TOMORROW MORNING SHOW At 11.30 A.M. ONLY Linda Darnell in "MARK OF ZORRO" Tyrone Power Entire New Print from 20th Century Fox.

ORIENTAL AIR-CONDITIONED

Take Any Eastern Tram Car or Happy Valley Bus

Showing Today At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

A Perfect Story with Well-Known Great Stars in the Cast! Acclaimed to be One of the Best Ten Pictures of 1948!

ONE OF THE BEST TEN! A GUY NAMED JOE

SPECIAL SUNDAY MORNING SHOW AT 12.30 "VALLEY OF THE VANISHING MEN" A Columbia Film

SHOWING TODAY Cathay At 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

THE SCREEN BLAZES AGAIN WITH A THOUSAND TRUE THRILLS! THE BIGGEST GANGSTER ACTION HIT IN FIVE YEARS!

ROGER TOUNY, GANGSTER!

TOMORROW EXTRA PERFORMANCE "THE GREAT WALTZ"

"BETTER LISTENING"

WITH

S.E.C. Radio**BANDSPREAD RECEIVERS**

MADE IN ENGLAND

A.C. AND D.C./A.C. MODELS AVAILABLE
(Guaranteed 12 Months)

SEE AND HEAR THE NEW MODELS NOW AT:

THE RADIO PEOPLE, 31, Nathan Road, Kowloon
or THE TSANG FOOK PIANO CO., Marina House, Hong Kong

OR AT

THE BRITISH GENERAL ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

Queen's Building Hong Kong

A Subsidiary of

THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO., LTD. OF ENGLAND

APB 1

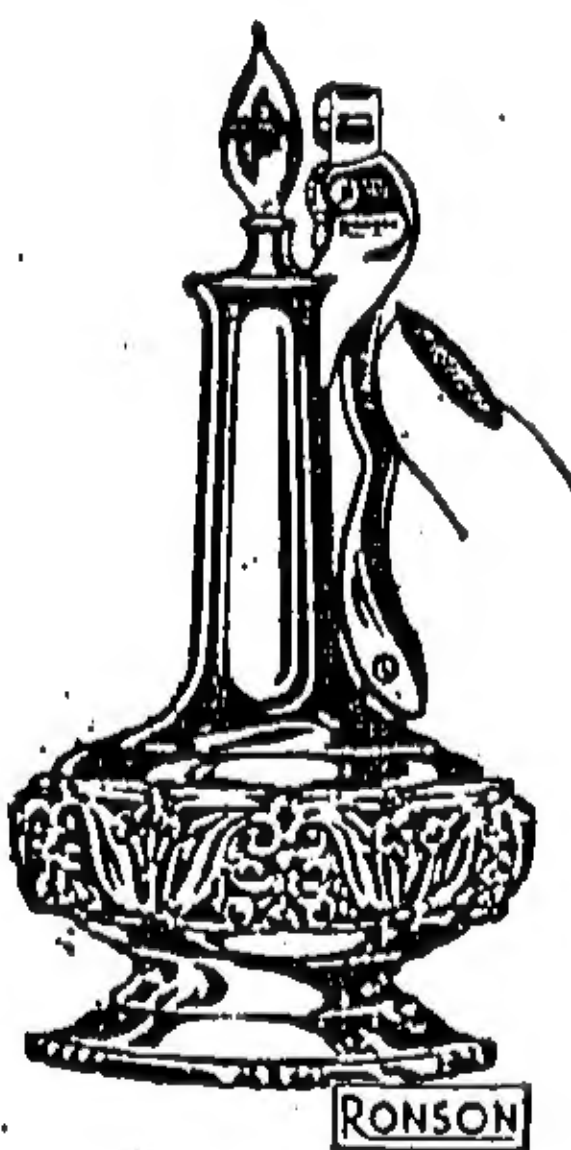
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FINE QUALITY
JEWELLERY

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OPEN UNTIL 6 P.M. DAILY.

THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

RONSON



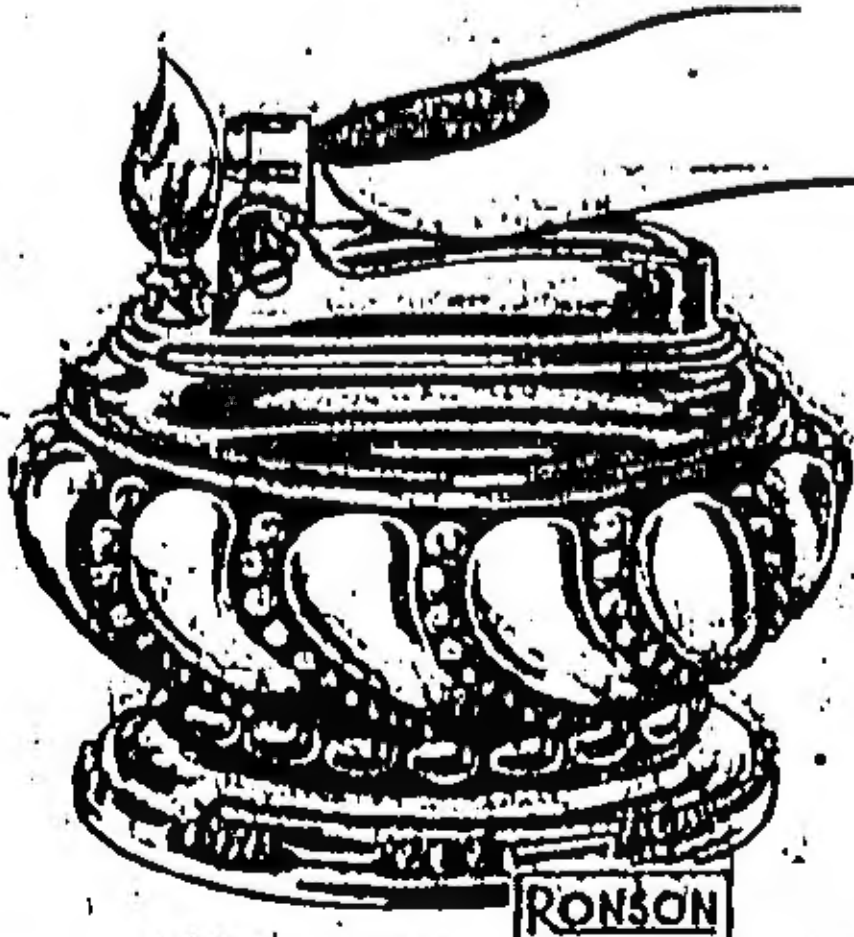
2447 RONSON
"DECANTER DELUXE"
GRACEFUL TABLE
LIGHTER. HEAVILY
SILVER PLATED.



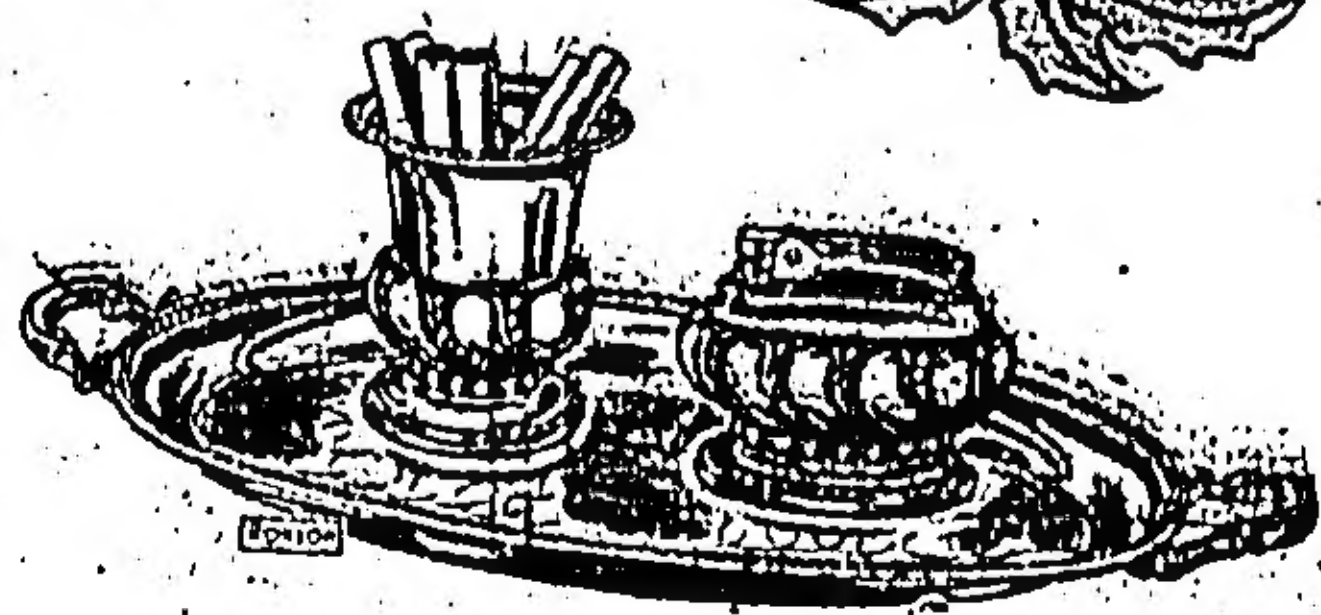
2470 RONSON "QUEEN
ANNE" TABLE AND DESK
LIGHTER IN HEAVY
SILVER PLATE. EX-
QUISITELY STYLED IN
PERIOD.

THE "LIGHT" OF THE PARTY.

PRESS IT'S LIT!
RELEASE IT'S OUT!
SAFELY OUT, THE
INSTANT YOU LIFT
YOUR FINGER.



2441 RONSON "CROWN"
TABLE LIGHTER IN
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SQUATTERS GIVE HELP TO MALAYA REBELS

Kuala Lumpur, December 17.

The British Government is training its sights on several hundred thousand landless Chinese squatters.

It is the latest phase of its war on Communist insurgents in the Malayan peninsula.

The squatters are Chinese peasants—pre-war rubber tappers and coolies—who, during the Japanese occupation, took over small plots of uncultivated land in the Malayan jungle, on

the fringe of rubber estates or on Government forestry lands. Here they grow small crops of rice and other foods.

The Government says the squatters feed and shelter the Chinese Communist insurgents who, since May, have been trying to overthrow British control of the peninsula. Many a Chinese is a squatter by day, an insurgent by night.

Most squatters aid the Communists because they're afraid not to.

Action against the squatters takes this form. Troops and police move into a squatter area where insurgents have been active. Each family is told they're being moved out and given a short time to gather up one load of household belongings.

Huts Burned

Then the family is checked by the police, to see if they include any known Communists or wanted persons. These are arrested. The others are taken to a collection centre.

Meanwhile, the military burns down their huts and what possessions they could take with them.

At the collection centre the displaced Chinese have two choices. He can set up a new home on two acres of Government-provided farm land—where he will be under police or military surveillance. There he will get free food for six months while he gets his own crop growing. Or he can be repatriated back to China.—Associated Press.

SECRET SOCIETY LEADER TO DIE

Paris, December 17.

Raymondin, leader of a Malagasy secret society, was condemned to death by a French military tribunal at Tananarive today for incitement to civil war.

The charges against Raymondin alleged that from early 1947 he incited people in the Moramanga region to arm themselves for massacre and pillage and also led sedition bands on murder and pillage.

Raymondin pleaded that certain parliamentarians were the sole instigators of the revolt, aimed at obtaining Madagascar's independence.—Reuter.

Hong Kong Artist Exhibits In N.Y.

New York, December 17.

The success or failure of a one-man art exhibit will determine whether a Chinese artist will be reunited soon in New York with his family now in Hong Kong.

The artist, Theodore S. Lee, 36, is an optimist. He has high hopes of success as he began an exhibit of 74 examples of his work at the Peridot Gallery.

"New York is wonderful," exclaimed this newcomer to the city. "It has everything. And it's so appreciative of art."

If his exhibit proves a hit, Lee said it would hasten the time when he can establish a home here and bring his young wife and two small sons over from Hong Kong.

Exhibiting his work is no novelty to Lee, a short, slight man with a ready smile. He has had

three one-man shows in China, three in Canada and six of his scrolls hang in the "Contemporary Chinese Painting" exhibition at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Lee was formerly instructor in history and art of Hong Kong. He was educated at Lingnan University, Canton, and studied traditional Chinese painting under Wong Ko-nin at the China Art Institute in Hong Kong.

Lee's exhibit at the Peridot Gallery of 19 scrolls, four framed pictures and 61 drawings in portfolios. Most of them are wash drawings. Some are engravings with poems in Chinese.—Associated Press.



Look before you
Leap

One day a Fox fell into a well. A Goat, passing by, was invited by the Fox to jump in, too. The foolish Goat did so, and the Fox, by means of the Goat's horns jumped out, leaving him to drown. As he ran away, the Fox said, "If you had as much brains as I, you would have looked before you leaped." Aesop's Fables

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Immigration Restriction

Bangkok, December 16. The Bangkok Prime Minister, Luang Pibul Songkram, said today that the Siam Government had decided to restrict immigration to Siam next year at a quota of 200 each for all countries, including China, which is at present allowed 10,000. The Cabinet had decided to reconsider the Chinese immigration quota, he told his press conference. It would be unfair to the other countries now allowed only 200 each.—Reuter.

Pickets On Frontier

Brussels, December 17. The Franco-Belgian frontier was tonight guarded by pickets when 60,000 Belgian workers who cross into France daily went on strike against a French order preventing them taking more than half of their earnings back to Belgium.

In Paris, a Ministry of Finance spokesman told Reuter that the French decision would not be modified at present. Reports from the frontier indicated that the French employers fully approved the action of the Belgian workers, who are engaged mainly in the textile, steel and building enterprises.

The move will greatly increase Belgium's already rapidly rising unemployment figures. The Belgian Premier, M. Paul Henri Spaak, tried unsuccessfully last week to persuade the French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, to repeal the order pending further negotiations. The French Government has offered to allow Belgian workers to buy whatever food they wanted in France and take it into Belgium, but the Belgian Government has refused this offer.—Reuter.

LONDON BRIBE INQUIRY

BELCHER CALLED "MAN WHO LOST INTEGRITY"

London, December 16.

John Belcher was described as "a man who has lost his integrity through association with an unscrupulous rogue" when the Tribunal investigating allegations of corruption in Government circles sat today.

The King's Counsel, Mr. Edmund Davies, making his closing speech on behalf of Harry Sherman, football pools chief, spoke of "the depth to which Belcher had sunk," because of his association with Sidney Stanley.

Mr. Davies said that Belcher had told other Government officials of allegations of corruption against them and himself. Yet, he had actually laughed it off and said that he did not propose to do anything about it. A corruption of moral standards, at least, had been quite clearly established, Mr. Davies submitted.

Describing Stanley as a "complete liar" to whose testimony no value could be attached, he said that part of this testimony had been that Harry Sherman was in the habit of carrying £20,000 or £30,000 in one pound notes about him.

Colour Bar A Big Issue

London, December 16.

Mr. Lief Egeland, South African High Commissioner in London, said tonight that the vast problem of racial adjustment had unlikely become a burning political issue both within and between South Africa's political parties.

The great majority of South Africans aim at giving non-European reasonable opportunities for welfare and advancement by parallel development, he added.

They could take credit for the fact that under pacification and administration the Zulus and all other native tribes have multiplied exceedingly.

A great process of civilisation is going on daily by which eight million Bantus are being gradually adjusted to a pattern of life approximating to European standards, Mr. Egeland said.—Reuter.

Horthys To Emigrate

Wellheim, December 17.

Admiral Horthy, former Hungarian Regent, and his wife will leave Germany for an unspecified destination abroad tomorrow.

Madame Horthy confirmed recurring rumours of their pending emigration but declined to divulge where they are going.

She said, "We do not want to cause any inconvenience to the country we are going to by a premature announcement of our plan."

Rumours are that Admiral Horthy and his wife will emigrate to Argentina where relatives of the couple are living, but Madame Horthy shrugged her shoulders when asked to confirm this.—Associated Press.

U.S. Bomb Sight In Red Hands

Washington, December 17. Detailed information on the Norden bomb sight leaked out to the Russian authorities as early as 1938.

A member of the Un-American Activities Committee, who declined to give his name, said that the report was obtained orally by a Committee investigator. The Committee is now pursuing it.

The informant did not say where the Russians are reported to have obtained the information. In 1938 the Norden bomb sight was one of the United States' biggest military secrets.—Associated Press.

RICE RATIONS IN MALAYA

London, December 16.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Arthur Creech Jones, told Parliament today that he was unable to forecast what the future rice ration for Malaya would be until allocations by the International Emergency Food Committee for the first half of next year had been made.

He has been asked to what extent assistance in Burma was being given to prevent an increase in the price of rice in Malaya.—Reuter.

Priest Helped Escapees

Prague, December 17.

Father Pavel Huclo, priest of the Greek Catholic Church in Prague, told the State Court that he had aided many people to make illegal crossings of the Czech frontier.

He was charged with using his rectory in Prague as a spy centre, and with him in the dock were nine others charged with running a network of spies and agents between Czechoslovakia and anti-Soviet groups in Europe.

The prosecution alleged that the rectory was an organising centre for the Banderovci organisation, an anti-Communist body, but Father Huclo today denied having had anything to do with the Banderovci.

Another of the accused, 27-year-old Jan Bilinsky, a former member of the Ukrainian revolutionary army, denied the accusation of many of the statements the police had attributed to him. But he admitted that he left Poland as a Banderovci courier, called at the Greek Catholic Church rectory in Prague, and attempted to cross the border before he was caught.

Gregor Euranic, 35-year-old Greek Catholic Church minister, another of the accused, was quoted by the Czechoslovak news agency as saying he came to Czechoslovakia to study theology. He admitted having aided comrades of the Banderovci into the American Zone of Germany, alleging he had done so at the request of Father Huclo, and because he was in financial difficulties.—Reuter.

Fifth Column To Be Fought

Washington, December 16.

Diplomats negotiating the seven-power Atlantic security pact in Washington are considering the inclusion of measures to combat totalitarian fifth columns.

The seven powers are the United States and Canada and the five Brussels Pact signatories—Belgium, France, Holland and Luxembourg. The proposed article would seek to ensure joint consultation among the signatories if such action should threaten the political independence or integrity of any one of them.

The primary purpose of the treaty is to guarantee joint action by the signatory nations to an armed attack but recent history has shown the possibility of internal aggression directed and supported from outside.—Reuter.

ANGLO-SWEDISH TRADE TALKS

London, December 17.

The initialing of the Anglo-Swedish trade agreement was postponed at the last moment without explanation.

A Swedish Embassy spokesman told Reuter: "The agreement will probably be announced simultaneously by the Board of Trade here and in Stockholm tomorrow night—it is initiated tomorrow."

An authoritative British source earlier today described the agreement as a compromise, indicating that Britain had agreed to cuts in Swedish imports of British textiles.—Reuter.

HISS MAKES PLEA OF INNOCENCE

New York, December 16.

Alger Hiss, former State Department official, pleaded innocent today to a Federal Grand Jury charge that he had denied giving secret Government papers to Whittaker Chambers, self-confessed former Communist spy.

The indictment, making two charges that Hiss, unlawfully, knowingly and willfully committed perjury before the New York Grand Jury was returned last night. Judge John W. Clancy fixed January 24 as the tentative date for the trial and ordered that Hiss be fingerprinted and photographed.

The Judge set \$5,000 bail. Hiss, on special leave from his position as President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, has been a principal witness before the House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee in its current spy investigations.

He is liable to conviction to a \$5,000 fine and to two years' imprisonment on each count. Hiss was charged with having furnished secret Government documents to Chambers, a former Soviet spy ring.

House spy hunters today by asserting that Hiss' indictment had not changed his opinion that the Congressional investigation was a red herring.

The House Un-American Activities Committee countered immediately. It accused the Justice Department of making a sneak attack on the Committee by saying that bungling had ruined the roll of pumpkin papers microfilm. Representative Richard Nixon said newsmen had jockeyed the President into his red-barring statement and that they were "The Committee disclosed in the meantime that Representative Joseph McDowell was taking the full Committee back to New York on Friday to try to clear up additional details about Hiss' alleged spy work.—United Press.

PUZZLING QUESTIONS IN CHINA CIVIL WAR

Shanghai, December 17.

The civil war in China today has resolved into a Chinese puzzle in which two questions are posed. What is the significance of General Fu Tso-yi's pulling in practically the entire North China strength inside the Peiping walls, and what is behind the Chinese Reds' apparent easing of pressure on the encircled Nationalists in North Kiangsu?

The Peiping situation has still not developed to a point where General Fu's exact aims can be determined. But all indications point to holding up in Peiping, preparing for a siege defence, at which he is a master.

If it is true, military officials here think that it must be for the purpose of pinning down the Red forces in North China and keeping them from going to other fronts while at the same time keeping his own forces as intact as possible behind the Peiping walls.

General Lin Piao was reported to be missing 15 Red columns around Peiping.

Reliable eye witnesses' accounts inside the walls indicated that the Reds are accepting that as General Fu's purpose.

No Interference

The Reds control all of the immediate areas outside Peiping other than immediately South where the airfield is still in Government hands.

The field was deserted two days ago and is now taken over by Chinese Air Force planes.

General Fu is building two airstrips inside the city—one on a polo field just outside the Legation Quarter walls.

The only fighting so far in the immediate Peiping area has been by the West where the city's water and power plants are located, but these are now in Red hands, according to all reports.

But the Reds are not interfering directly with the traffic in and out of the South field.

Easing Off In Kiangsu
They have not given any sign of staging a direct assault on the city.

In North Kiangsu, the Reds, after apparently having caught General Huang Wei's 12th Army Group in a knotted noose and after reducing General Tu Yung's three Army groups to the numerical strength of a single group, suddenly eased off permitting junctions of General Huang Wei's forces with General Yen-nien's relict columns pushing Northward.

It was believed that the Reds under General Liu Po-cheng may be swinging out Westward and these under Chen Yi Eastward to begin another pincer movement aimed at points between Pengpu and the Yangtze.—United Press.

Nanking Shaken By Explosion

Nanking, December 17.

War-threatened Nanking was startled last night by a distant explosion, the origin of which is being investigated by the authorities.

The explosion followed the appearance to the East of the city of a plane with unfamiliar lights.

The plane appeared to drop a flare, following which there was an explosion. The aircraft circled the area twice and then flew North across the Yangtze.

The explosion, which occurred at 9.40 p.m., rattled windows and shook the city.

Central News says two bombs were dropped.

One fell to the South of Yangtze, 10 miles East of Nanking, and the other near Yenching, on the South bank of the Yangtze, six miles North-East of the capital.

The latter bomb killed three people and demolished several houses.—Reuter-AAP.

Schuman And Sforza To Hold Meeting

Rome, December 16.

Count Carlo Sforza, Italian Foreign Minister, and M. Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister, will meet in France on December 20 for an exchange of views.

The meeting will be held in a city in Central France.

The Ministers may discuss economic problems between the two countries, particularly the scheme for a French-Italian customs union which is now being studied by experts.—Reuter.

HANDED OVER TO RUSSIANS

Helsinki, December 15.

Finland police today handed over to Russian frontier guards 15 detainees accused of fighting for the Axis powers in the last war.

Most were persons from Soviet-incorporated Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, classified as Russian subjects.

The USSR had requested their extradition under the 1944 peace treaty, which stipulated that Finland deliver to their respective countries Allied nationals accused of collaboration with Axis powers.—Reuter.

STATISTICS BACK BRITISH DENIAL

London, December 16.

The Ministry of Supply today issued official figures of Britain's aluminium exports to the United States during 1948.

The figures support their denial of allegations of sharp practice in reselling to American firms large quantities of aluminium scrap bought with Marshall Plan dollars.

The statistics showed that nearly 900 tons of aluminium ingots sent in September accounted for most of the 1,000 tons of re-melted scrap aluminium sold in ingot form to the United States in 1948. The remainder was sent in July (74 tons) and August (22 tons).

A Ministry of Supply spokesman valued these ingots at £70,175, £6,124 and £1,983 respectively.

No official explanation was given for the discrepancy between these figures and the total of 12,812 tons of aluminium scrap

which Mr. Howard Bruce, acting Economic Co-operation Administrator, alleged that Britain had resold to the United States.

The American chief of the Co-operation Administration mission to The Netherlands, Dr. Alan Valentine, today cleared the Dutch Government of charges that it improperly re-exported Marshall Plan goods to the United States.

Dr. Valentine said: "This Mission has just received officially from The Netherlands Government explanations which it regards as thoroughly satisfactory and we have so reported to Mr. Howard Bruce in Washington, together with a strong recommendation that The Netherlands' explanation be accepted and that he issue immediately an official statement to that effect."—Reuter.

PEIPING MIXTURE OF CALM AND TENSION

Peiping, December 17.

Peiping, still inviolate behind her massive crenellated walls, watches with unaffected curiosity Nationalist troops march and counter-march through her ancient streets.

Little attention is paid to the occasional crash of gunfire from beyond the Western walls.

The city is full of troops, both on the move and idle.

Most of its historic buildings and grounds are used as billets and the overflow is accommodated in untenanted homes, of which there are many.

Both troops and civilians appear to be enjoying the bright sunshine.

Some of the troops, who have been marched long distances to get to Peiping, were found ambling in the tranquil grounds of such places as the Temple of Heaven, a pleasant change.

Fu's H.Q.

Troops also are billeted in Chung Nan Hai, part of which is now the headquarters of the North China Commander, General Fu Tso-yi.

Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi once lived in one of the palaces there.

Today, in the beautiful grounds where she used to stroll, cavalry regiments gaze contentedly.

Crowds gathered to watch a division of Nationalist troops march through Hatamen, the picturesque gate connecting the Chinese and Tartar cities of Peiping.

Curious Situation

Troops moved Northward along Hatamen Street past the Glads, where thousands of workers are busy building a new airfield.

Their labours provided an interesting spectacle to thousands.

During the past few days, Peiping has been calm and relaxed during the day, but with nightfall, under-currents of uneasiness and tension course through the city.

The situation is curious now. Every preparation is ostensibly being made for house to house and street to street fighting, but not one out of 10 residents still think the city itself will survive.

Some have even become a battlefield.—Associated Press.

STUDENTS TO BE RELEASED

Nicosia, December 15.

The British authorities in Cyprus have agreed to release for passage to Israel 500 "non-combatant" theological students held in Cyprus camps.—Reuter.

RAF Men's Fate In Palestine

London, December 16.

Mr. Winston Churchill, leader of the Parliamentary Opposition, asked the Government for an assurance that it would establish whether cruel and outrageous measures were taken against the Royal Air Force Mosquito aircraft shot down in Palestine by an Israeli fighter.

He wanted the matter pursued with the utmost vigour.

The Air Minister, Mr. Arthur Henderson, replied: "If the Mediator can establish the facts as we see them, we shall make strong representations to the Jewish authorities."

An Israeli spokesman said in Tel Aviv tonight that the Israeli pilot who shot down a Mosquito plane over Jewish territory in Palestine on November 20 did not see its markings.

Earlier, an Israeli military spokesman said there were no survivors from the plane, which might have been British.—Reuter.

SHARE OFFER

London, December 15.

The Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. which is a member of the Royal Dutch Shell group of companies, announced that it proposes in the next few days to make an offer to holders of preference and ordinary shares in Venezuelan Oil Concessions to acquire their shares on the basis of £2 Shell ordinary stock for each VOC share, whether preference or ordinary.

A general meeting of shareholders of the Shell Transport Trading Company will be called to authorise an increase in the share capital of that company in connection with making this offer.

The offer is subject to sufficient VOC shareholders accepting it.—Reuter.



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Christmas Parcels In Hold-Up

London, December 15.

A conveyance of 20 lorries drove into Euston railway station, London, today to clear 10,000 Christmas parcels held up by the 102 days old strike of men and platform staff.

Railway staffs stood like beside piled packages, including Christmas trees, as private lorries were loaded under extra police guard.

Railway officials consider it will take almost a week to clear the accumulation of parcels from platforms and goods wagons.

The strike committee reported today that because private lorries were brought in to Euston, about 100 women at nearby St. Pancras railway terminal had decided to leave overtime work and movement of parcels between the two stations.

The St. Pancras men are meeting tomorrow to decide their attitude to the Euston strike.—Reuter.

MOPPING-UP IN BURMA

Rangoon, December 15.

Government troops today killed 20 insurgents in mopping-up operations in the Pegu District, 40 miles North of Rangoon, tonight's military communique stated.

Seven rebels were killed and several others injured when Government forces dispersed insurgent bands in Tavoy, in the Tenasserim Division of Southern Burma, the communique added.—Reuter.



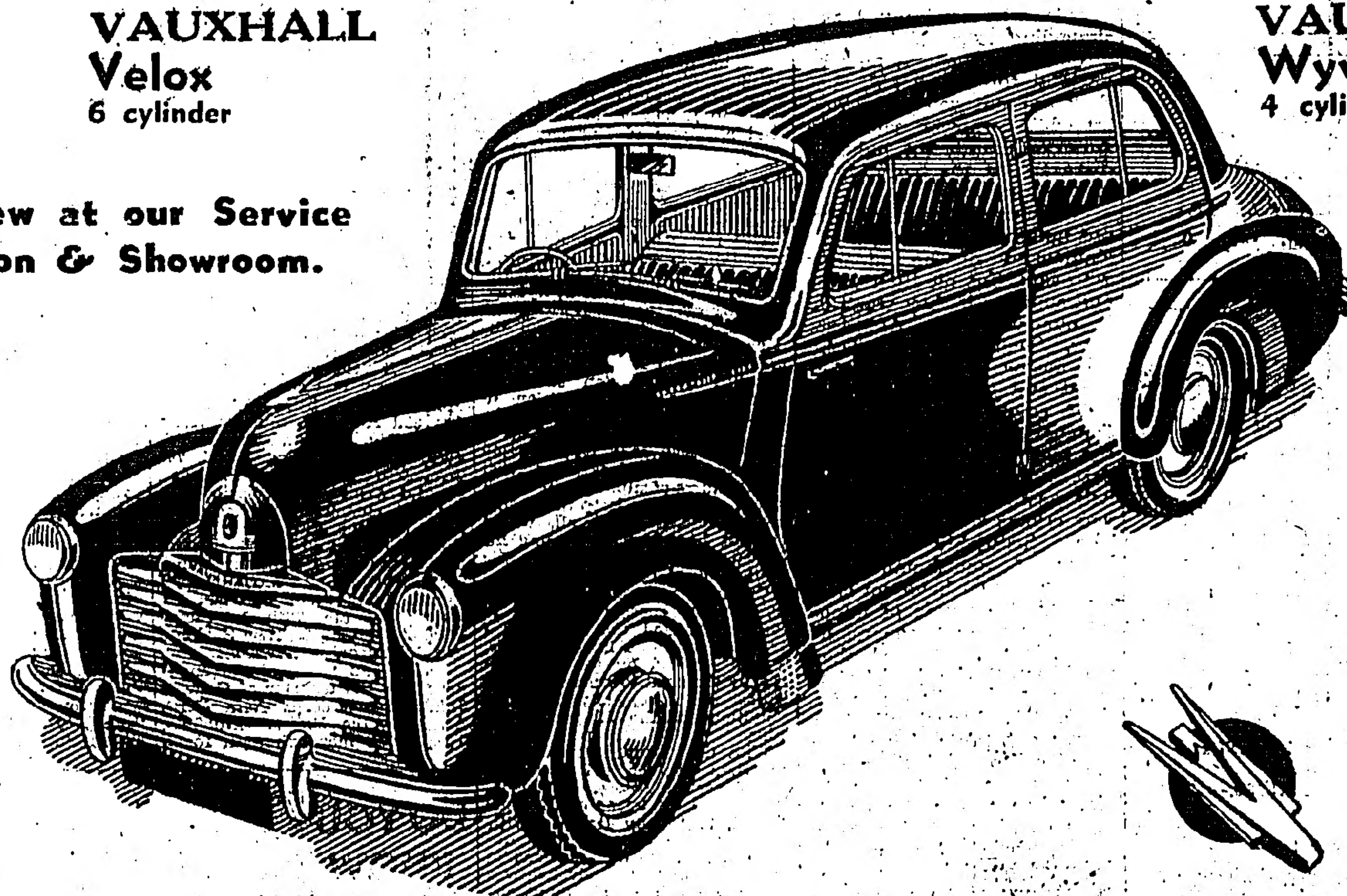
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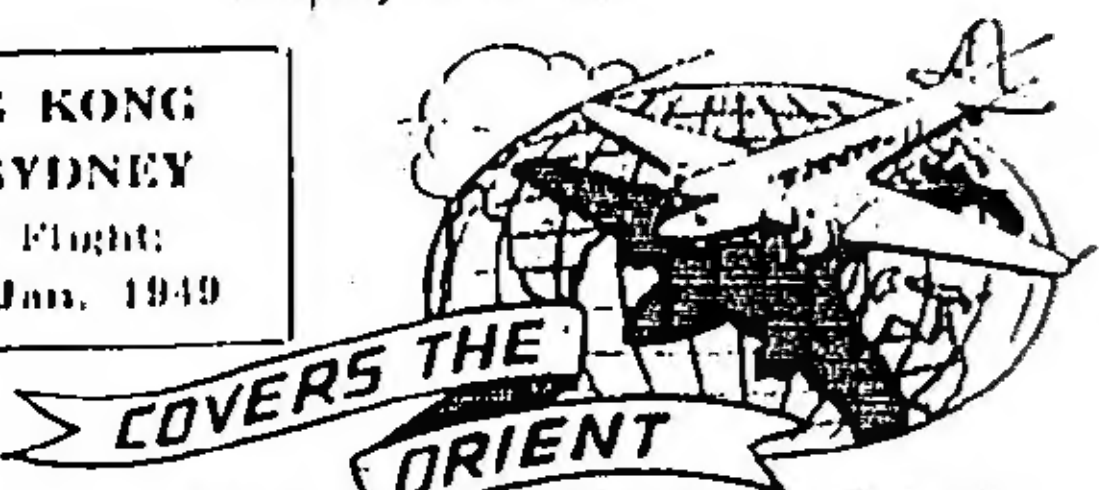
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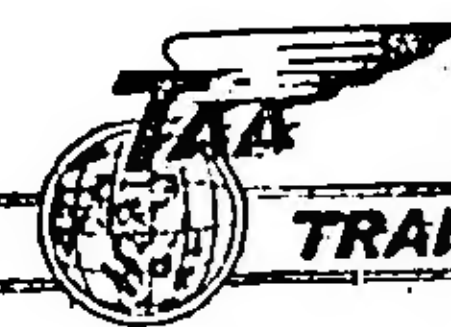
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DEATH

GORKE ALWIN A. GORKE, former resident of HONG KONG, passed away on December 9, 1948, in MACAO.

POWER AND THE GLORY

Hong Kong residents, as well as people all over the Commonwealth, are looking with amazement and indignation towards Washington, where the Supreme Court has accepted for hearing an application for Japanese war criminals to review their conviction by the International Tribunal.

This flagrant repudiation of the authority of a body sponsored by eleven nations, by appealing to the capital of a country which for the first time finds itself able to dominate most of the world by economic and military power, is shattering to anyone naive enough to believe in the future of the United Nations, for instance—heavily supported though it may be by American dollars. On the other hand, Moscow must be en fete at the news. One can imagine the headlines in all the Pravdas at this apparent justification of their accusations that the U.S. cares nothing for international arrangements not in accordance with the developing needs of Washington and Wall Street.

What the Communists will probably omit, however, is the fact that the U.S. State Department has strongly opposed the application, arguing that no national court can review the judgment of the International Tribunal. The Government rightly feels that America's role in world affairs will suffer if the Court interferes in such a matter. Peoples who are hungry, and struggling to rebuild a war-devastated economy, may be grateful for dollar aid; but they are not going to stand by while a power caucus in America flaunts too naked a disregard of the basic rights of other nations.

Too many backs have been put up already by the puerile clamouring of the minority who say: Cut off their loans and supplies if they won't do it our way, the American way. Such an attitude is by no means typical of that great and kindly people. Of course, the fact that Japanese are involved makes the matter worse. It is true that in the past three and a half years public interest in war crimes trials has waned. The justifiably vengeful hopes of punishment held during the war have not been fulfilled; thousands of minor criminals were "exonerated" when it was realised they would mostly be dead before courts could find time to try them. The fantastically long drawn out trials have been impotent to fulfil their original purpose of stern example, when under the conditions existing at the time, efficient brief courts martial followed by the firing squad might have made a permanent impression.

Nevertheless, numerous survivors and the bereaved relatives of many others, grow hot with indignation at some of the recent light penalties, or remission of sentence as in the case of Ise Koch. But when a lawyer goes above the heads of 10 nations to appeal to Washington on behalf of some obviously guilty Japanese, the time has come to call a halt, as the State Department is now trying to do.

A new piece of equipment that was a godsend to us. It was the "tank-dozzer." Whenever the German gave up even a foot of ground he made certain that every culvert and bridge on the miserable roads was blown out; every shelf road cut into the steep mountainsides was likewise destroyed. To restore these to some semblance of usefulness we had to use the ever-present bulldozer. They had to work with, sometimes even in front of, our front lines in order that necessary supplies could be brought up to the troops and wounded could be evacuated.

The enemy countered this by hidden machine guns and other long-range light-calibre weapons, which, from the safety of a thousand yards' distance, picked off operating personnel and often destroyed the machines themselves. Some imaginative and sensible men on the home front, hearing of this difficulty, solved the problem by merely converting a number of Sherman tanks into bulldozers. The tanks were impervious to all types of small-arms fire and could not be destroyed except by shells from a large-calibre gun or by big mines. From that time on our engineering detachments on the front lines began to enjoy a degree of safety that actually led them to seek this kind of adventurous work. None of us could identify the individual responsible for developing this piece of equipment but had been present he would have, by acclamation, all the medals we could have pinned upon him.

THE THIRTY-SIXTH INSTALLMENT

CRUSADE IN EUROPE

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Own Story Of The War In Europe



An incident connected with this affair illustrates clearly that war is always conducted in the realm of the possible and of the estimated rather than of the certainly known. It never pays to be too sure about the future. On the afternoon preceding the attack on Bari, Air Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham, commanding the British air forces supporting the Eighth Army, held a press conference. The German air forces had been so thoroughly defeated—almost eliminated from the immediate front—that Coningham estimated they had no power to intervene further in the operation. To the assembled press he stated bluntly: "I would regard it as a personal affront and insult if the Luftwaffe should attempt any significant action in this area. The next morning he was definitely more than embarrassed. His newspaper friends did not, by any means, allow him to forget his arbitrary and unqualified statement of confidence.

By Christmas Day, the last time that I visited the Italian front, our front generally ran along the line Ortona—Avisio—Pesceia, and Gorgonzola river. The long and costly battle for Mount Cassino began after I left the front.

To the soldier at the front the high command's designation of an operation as "secondary" makes little difference. In this case it certainly meant no amelioration of his hardships. Heavy rains fell and the streams were habitually torrents. The weather grew colder day by day. Men and vehicles sank in the mud. But the dogged fighting was constant. The enemy's employment of gas was in solid lock, covered every approach—every foot of ground was gained only by weary manoeuvres over mountain slopes and by blasting and digging the hostile gunners out of their shelters.

In early December, I had received word the President would return to the United States through Australia. I went to Tunis to meet him. A few hours before his arrival I received a somewhat garbled radiogram from General Marshall that discussed some administrative details incident to my forthcoming change in assignment. When he wrote the message General Marshall apparently assumed that I had already received specific information concerning the new assignment through staff channels. But, lacking such information, I was unable to deduce his meaning with certainty. The President arrived in mid-afternoon and was seated in the automobile when he cleared up the matter with one short sentence. He said, "Well, Ike, you are going to command Overlord."

Because I had to discuss with him, at three o'clock of his next day's plans, we had no opportunity, at the moment, to talk further about the new assignment, but I did manage to say, "Mr. President, I realise that such an appointment involved difficult decisions. I hope you will not be disappointed."

During the remainder of the afternoon we made arrangements to conduct the President to Malta and to Sicily. At the former place he wanted to award to Lord Gort and the Island's garrison a Presidential Citation for the gallant defence of 1941 and 1942, while at the latter he wanted to inspect an American airfield and personally confer a decoration on General Clark. Both the desires he accomplished, but, owing to a delay at Malta because of mechanical difficulty with his plane, he could not continue on his homeward trip that day, as had been planned. The Secret Service men were irritated.

The fronts of both the American Fifth and British Eighth Armies were difficult, although on the American sector the country was more mountainous. On Montgomery's front the principle factors of the problem during the late fall were the rivers, the mud, and the enemy. Nevertheless, all along the line slow but steady advances were made.

On November 15, 1943, the Fifth Army was composed of the American 3rd, 34th, 45th Infantry, 82d Airborne, and 1st Armoured Divisions and the British 46th, 50th Infantry, and 7th Armoured Divisions. However, the 1st Armoured Division had not yet completed movement to Italy and the 82d Airborne and the 7th Armoured Divisions were to be withdrawn soon for transfer to England. In Montgomery's Eighth Army there were six divisions, the 5th, 78th, 1st Canadian, 8th Indian, 2d New Zealand, and 1st Airborne Divisions.

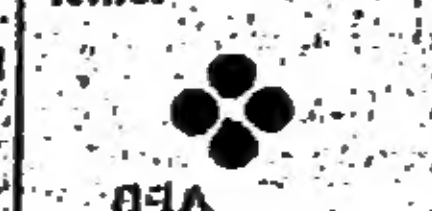
In the fall we made arrangements for the transfer of General Juin's French corps from North Africa to the Italian battlefield. To provide more strength for a

struck and the escaping oil carrier, a fiery catastrophe to many of the neighbouring vessels. One circumstance connected with the affair could have had the most unfortunate repercussions. One of the ships was loaded with a quantity of mustard gas, which we were always forced to carry with us because of uncertainty of German intentions in the use of this weapon. Fortunately the wind was offshore and the escaping gas caused no casualties. Had the wind been in the opposite direction, however, great disaster could well have resulted. It would have been indeed difficult to explain, even though we manufactured and carried this material only for reprisal purposes in case of surprise action on the part of the enemy.

An outcome of the unfortunate affair was the establishment of a very much better informational and control machinery for anti-aircraft defence among the naval, ground, and air forces. It was the last serious blow that forces under my command suffered from the enemy air forces in the Mediterranean.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HONG KONG?

Can you recognise where a picture was taken? The answer is in Page Nine.



87A

ed and fearful, but the President confided to me that he had made up his mind to stay at Carthage an extra night and if a legitimate reason for the delay had not been forthcoming he would have invented one. I remarked that I assumed the President of the United States would not be questioned in dictating the details of his own travel. He replied with considerable emphasis, "You haven't had to argue with the Secret Service!"

During his visit the President on several occasions discussed matters in connection with my imminent transfer to London. He said that, with the full concurrence of General Marshall, he had designated me to command Overlord because he felt that the time element permitted no further delay in naming a commander. He said also that he had originally planned to give that command to General Marshall, observing that senior officers might well relate in sharing the burdens and honours of staff and command duty. However, after consideration he had decided that Marshall could not be spared from Washington and particularly from his post on the Combined Chiefs of Staff. The President said that it was Marshall's commanding presence on the Combined Staff that always inspired his own great feeling of confidence in the decisions of that body. He added that though the British would gladly accept Marshall as the Overlord commander the fact was that all the President's associates appeared pleased with the present decision.

The President was quite concerned with two points that did not seem particularly important to me, but to which he and Mr. Harry Hopkins attached significance. The first of these was the timing of the announcement. It was finally decided that the President would do this from Washington; in the meantime the change in assignment would be a closely guarded secret. The second point was my title as commander of Overlord. He toyed with the word "Supreme" in his conversation but made no decision at the moment. He merely said that he must devise some designation that would imply the importance the Allies attached to the new venture.

A few days after the President's departure I received from General Marshall a letter of power that is still one of my most cherished mementos of World War II.

To Be Continued

FINAL ANSWER

Illo, December 17, killed his brother-in-law, Teodoro Hoffman, 28, with a shotgun on a crowded street and then surrendered to the police.

Wladimir, who is half-American, said Hoffman had persistently urged him to join the Communist Party.—United Press.

WITH THAT XMAS DINNER

SOUP Caldbeck's Amontillado Vino

FISH Bouchard Pere et Fils' Chablis.

ENTREE Barton and Guestier St. Emilion

TURKEY Deinhard's Liebfraumilch 1943

SWEETS Pommery and Greno's Champagne

CHINESE Dow's 1935 Vintage Port

COFFEE Caldbeck's F.O.V. Liqueur Brandy

Bols Liqueurs

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CHINA POLICY STILL ONE OF "HANDS OFF"

Washington Reiterates Stand MARINE RUMOUR SCOTCHED

H.K.-Bound Vessel Fired On

Tientsin, December 16. The Butterfield and Swire steamer Huphe (2,500 tons) was fired on by Nationalist troops today as the vessel sailed past Tangku.

The fire came from a wharve under Nationalist occupation. Nobody was injured and the ship escaped damage.

There were 12 foreigners and 22 Chinese on board the vessel, which was bound for Hong Kong.

The British Consul-General, Mr. Scott L. Burdett, is taking the matter up with the Chinese Commissioner for Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Commander.

Two Chinese LSTs, packed with military personnel, were also fired upon.

No explanations have been given and a report from the Huphe's captain is awaited.

Thungku tonight resembles an armed stronghold. Reuter.

Washington, December 17. The State Department stood firm today in its public determination to remain aloof from the political crisis which Chiang Kai-shek's Government is going through in China.

As far as the U.S. is concerned, said the Department press officer, Mr. Michael McDermott, if there is talk of a coalition government in China it is the business of China and not of the U.S.

He made this statement when told there had been reports from London that the British Government might favour formation of a Coalition Government in China.

At the same time the State Department said U.S. Marines being sent to Shanghai had orders to protect American lives and possibly some American property but they will not defend the city.

This was announced by the Department in a statement which it said was aimed at speculation in Shanghai that the U.S. is moving in to save the big Chinese port from advancing Communists.

Mr. McDermott said he understood the Marines mentioned in the statement are going to Shanghai from the U.S. naval base at Tientsin. It previously had been reported that a force of about 700 is being despatched.

Text of a statement of U.S. Marines being sent to Shanghai is being sent to Shanghai aboard a naval transport.

Sole Function

"Their sole function is to protect American lives in the event that a sudden emergency arises within the city which might endanger the lives of Americans there, and, if circumstances warrant, facilitate the embarkation of United States nationals aboard naval vessels in the harbour."

"Should it become necessary, pursuant to these tasks, some temporary protection may be given to U.S. properties which are really essential to the safety of Americans there and to their embarkation."

"The Marines will not be landed to 'maintain law and order in Shanghai' nor will they become involved in any 'defence of the city.' It should be clear that they would leave immediately when such emergency subsides or evacuation has been carried out."

Truman Silent

Mr. McDermott said the phrases about maintaining law and order and defending the city were quoted from the Shanghai press and from reports widely current in the area that the U.S. intended using the Marines for those purposes.

Asked what properties might be regarded as essential to the safety of Americans, Mr. McDermott replied that he could not say, and left the decision up to commanders on the scene.

He thought any property in which refugees might be living in a time of trouble in the city would be protected as long as the refugees were there.

At a press conference today, President Truman declined to add anything to his previous remarks made concerning Madame Chiang Kai-shek's visit.

Asked if he would comment on her personal visit for tea with the Presidential family at Blair House, Mr. Truman said he would not. Associated Press and United Press.

SIAM IMPOSES IMPORT CONTROL

Bangkok, December 16. Siam today imposed a strict import control on about 100 luxury commodities, including motorcars, motorcycles, paints, oils, cement, canned foods and toilet articles.

They will henceforth be allowed into the country only by special permit from the Ministry of Commerce.

The Siamese Premier, Field Marshal Luang Pibul Songkram, appealed to the nation not to encourage black marketers. Reuter.

No Recording Of Marriages

Sheffield, December 17. The Bishop of Sheffield, Dr. L. R. Hunter, will not let people make records of marriages in churches in his diocese, because:

- 1.—The records might be played later at hilarious parties.
- 2.—The bride and groom might think more about their vows than the solemnity of their vows. Associated Press.

Malayan Police Complaint

London, December 16. Mr. Arthur Creech Jones, the Colonial Secretary, said in a parliamentary reply today that he was aware of some dissatisfaction among Malayan police officers over the promotion of certain ex-Palestine police officers, who had been absorbed into the Malayan force.

He was inquiring into representations made to him by individual officers.

The Colonial Secretary also said that 44 Palestine police constables and sergeants had been transferred to Malaya in the rank of inspector or above. Another 103 had been transferred in rank of assistant inspector or sub-inspector.

No officers of rank of inspector or above had been transferred when either at or near retiring age, but three officers in this category had been given temporary re-employment on agreement.

In these cases experienced officers were required for special duties and younger men would not have been suitable, he said. Reuter.

Western Union To Have Cabinet

Paris, December 16. The Western Union plan was approved today by delegates of Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

It will be submitted for final approval to the Foreign Ministers of the five Brussels Pact powers at a meeting expected to be held early next year in London or Luxembourg.

The plan comprises a European Cabinet of Ministerial rank, backed by a Consultative Parliament. The plan envisages a Western European Parliament operating on a two-thirds majority basis and competent to discuss all European problems except military defence.

This will be reserved to the General Staff organisation envisaged in the military framework now being completed by the projected North Atlantic treaty.

Members of the Western European Parliament will be nominated by the participating Governments.

The Belgian delegate said the plan represented a compromise between the rival British and Franco-Belgian proposals for a Western European Constitution.

The British idea for a Western European Constitution tended towards the creation of a European Council with national delegations not confined to Ministers and officials chosen by Governments.

France proposed an Assembly with delegates nominated by national Parliaments.

The main European Unity Committee will reconvene early in the new year to prepare its report for the Consultative Council of the Brussels treaty powers. Reuter.

New China Policy Being Forged?

Washington, December 16. Authoritative diplomatic quarters in Washington are disinclined to accept official American pronouncements in the last 48 hours of continued support for the Chinese Government.

They felt that the reiteration of support should be taken to indicate that a new American policy, designed to fit the circumstances created by the progressive weakening of the regime, has not yet been forged.

They feel that it will not be completed until the situation in China is clarified. Whatever the surface implications of yesterday's statement by the acting Secretary of State, Mr. Robert Lovett, of no change in the American policy to aid President Chiang Kai-shek, these diplomats feel that the following points cannot be ignored:

1.—While recognising the National Government, the United States has pressed consistently since the war for a representative Coalition Government of national unity in China.

2.—The creation of such a Government of national unity is the most desirable, if unlikely, solution to the current situation.

3.—The chances of President Chiang Kai-shek retaining a significant degree of authority or influence in China as a whole when the current Communist advance is completed do not seem bright.

4.—The creation of a Coalition, though imperfect, and probably containing a dominant Communist influence, might well provide the only feasible way of bringing peace.

That such an appraisal of the Chinese crisis at the present time could not come from an official United States spokesman is recognised.

Bound To Policy

As Mr. Lovett said yesterday, the State Department is bound by the existing statutes

to continue aid and support the Central Government.

There is little reason to doubt, diplomats said, that the United States would recognise and help to sustain a Chinese Coalition if it were willing to accept what are regarded here as the minimum national and international proprieties—freedom of expression for the Chinese and freedom of action for foreign business interests. Reuter.

Dismantling Of German Factories

London, December 15. The Committee which has been considering the dismantling of German industries announced tonight that its discussions had narrowed the problem of the number of war factories in Western Germany to be exempted.

It is known that out of a total of nearly 300 factories under consideration the Committee will recommend exemption for less than 200 instead of considerably more as originally proposed.

London diplomatic quarters consider it certain that Britain and France still oppose the final list as being too long. They are expected to oppose it on a Governmental level if it is finally adopted by the Marshall Plan Administrator, Mr. Paul G. Hoffman, and the American Secretary of State, Mr. George Marshall.

This so-called Humphrey Committee has been meeting in London for a fortnight in the presence of British and French observers. Its members were returning to the United States tonight. They will lay their recommendations before Mr. Hoffman on his return from the Far East. Reuter.

INDIAN FORCES SHELLED

New Delhi, December 16. An Indian government communique today reported that its forces fighting in Kashmir underwent continuous shelling for nearly 15 hours in their perimeter in Jammu Province. The Committee said 2,500 shells from guns believed to be from one field regiment smashed into their positions between 11 a.m. on Tuesday and nearly 2 a.m. on Wednesday.

The communique said later reports indicated that shells were still being fired. United Press.

WESTERN ZONES' TRADE PACT

Frankfurt, December 16. Britain, the United States and France formally signed today the trade agreement between France and the three Western Zones of Germany, initiated last month.

The agreement, valid until June 30, 1949, provides for exchanges up to \$300 million in trade each way. Reuter.

COLOMBIAN PESO DEVALUED

New York, December 15. The Colombian peso rate has been devalued to 1.65 pesos to the dollar, according to unofficial advice received by banks here.

The Colombian rate previously had been 1.75 to the United States dollar. Reuter.

Red Threat To P.I. Stability

Manila, December 16. Developments in China and elsewhere in the Orient have made Communism a real threat to Philippine stability, says Narciso Ramos, Philippine Minister to Argentina.

In a speech before the Philippine Academy of Foreign Affairs, the diplomat said, "We have had first hand experience with totalitarianism and we do not like it whether it goes under the name of Co-prosperity dictated from Tokyo or Communism, dictated from Moscow."

Mr. Ramos, who will leave tomorrow for Buenos Aires, admonished his countrymen that the best means of turning back the Red tide was to realise a programme of social justice and rebuild the country so that none will be dispossessed. Associated Press.

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The photograph shows the tram station at Whitty Street.

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Gaulle Attack On Queuille Fails

Paris, December 16. The Upper House of the National Assembly, by 152 votes to 132, today rejected a Gaullist motion aimed at throwing out a Bill adopted by the Lower House last week to speed up the Budget debate.

BEVIN VISIT TO PARIS

London, December 16. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, may go to Paris during the next 10 days for a meeting of the Council of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation.

It is still not certain whether there will be such a meeting before Christmas, nor whether Mr. Bevin or Sir Stafford Cripps, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will attend if one is called.

There is no arrangement for Mr. Bevin to go to Paris for any other purpose. Press reports had said that the Foreign Secretary was to make an urgent journey there to discuss Anglo-French differences about the future control of the Ruhr. Reuter.

UNITED NATIONS LOSES JEEPS

Jerusalem, December 16. The United Nations Office in Jerusalem reported today that unidentified Jews stole three United Nations jeeps from Jerusalem's observatory.

They said the jeeps were driven away right under the noses of Israeli policemen guarding the compound. Reuter.

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"BETRAYAL OF DR. SUN'S PRINCIPLES"

Vancouver, December 17. Ho Ping-ti, lecturer in Chinese history at the University of British Columbia, said today that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has betrayed the principles of Chinese Democracy.

Mr. Ho was speaking in a student panel on the "The Struggle in China."

"Since 1927," he said, "Chiang Kai-shek has identified himself and his party with capitalists and bankers. He has betrayed the principles of Sun Yat-sen, the father of Chinese Democracy."

Chiang had played the role of a real statesman up to 1930 in revivifying the country economically, he said. His ignorance of financial problems led him to rely on his brother-in-law, H.H. Kung, a banker with a private

fortune estimated at more than US\$200,000,000.

"After 1940, China was ruined by a small group of vested interests."

This contrast of tremendous wealth and abject poverty, he said, was fruitful ground for Communist doctrines.

Mr. Ho deplored the U.S. Chinese policy, and said the Chinese people hated the U.S. for its half-hearted policy which is prolonging the civil war.

The panel was sponsored by the United Nations Society Here. Associated Press.

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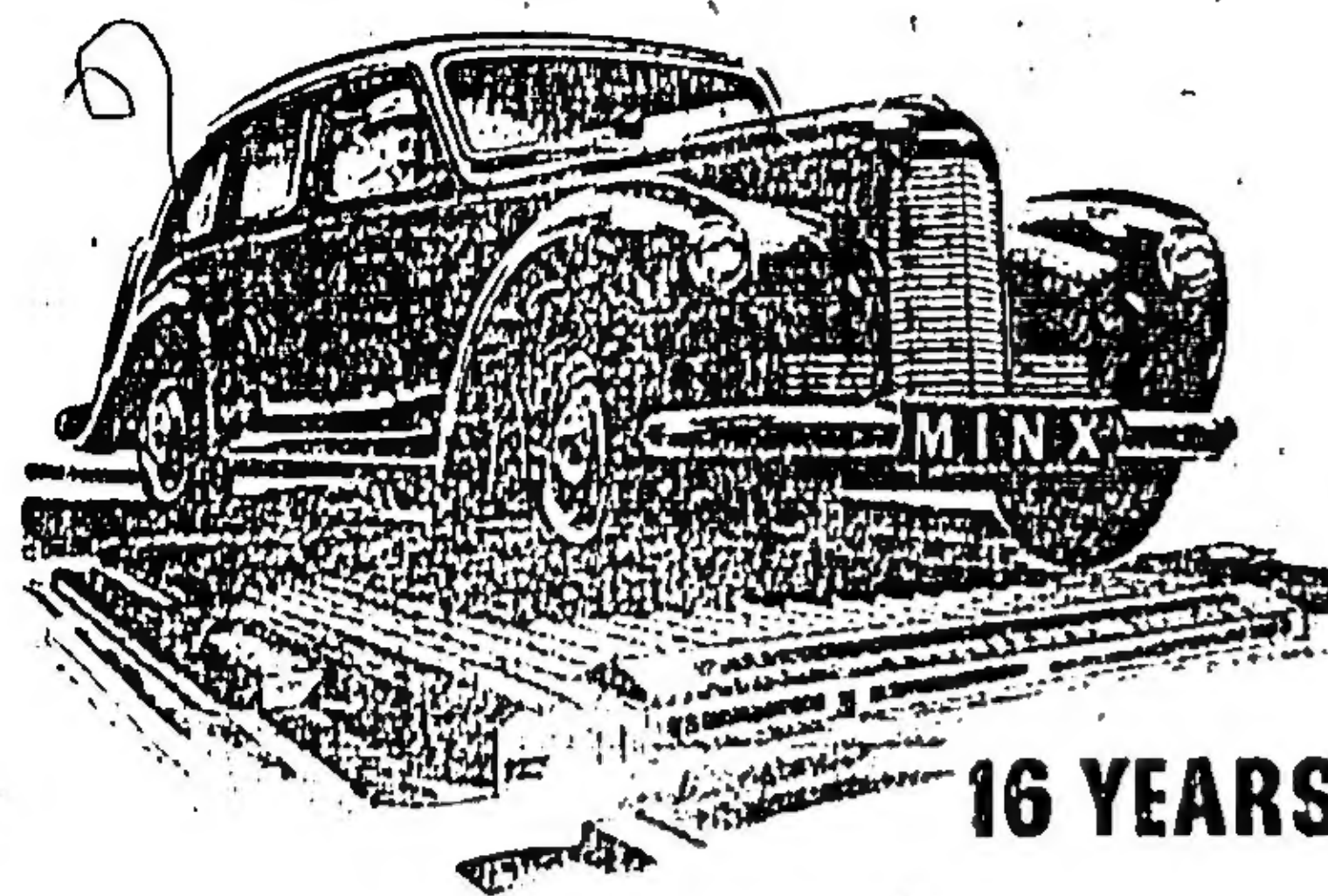
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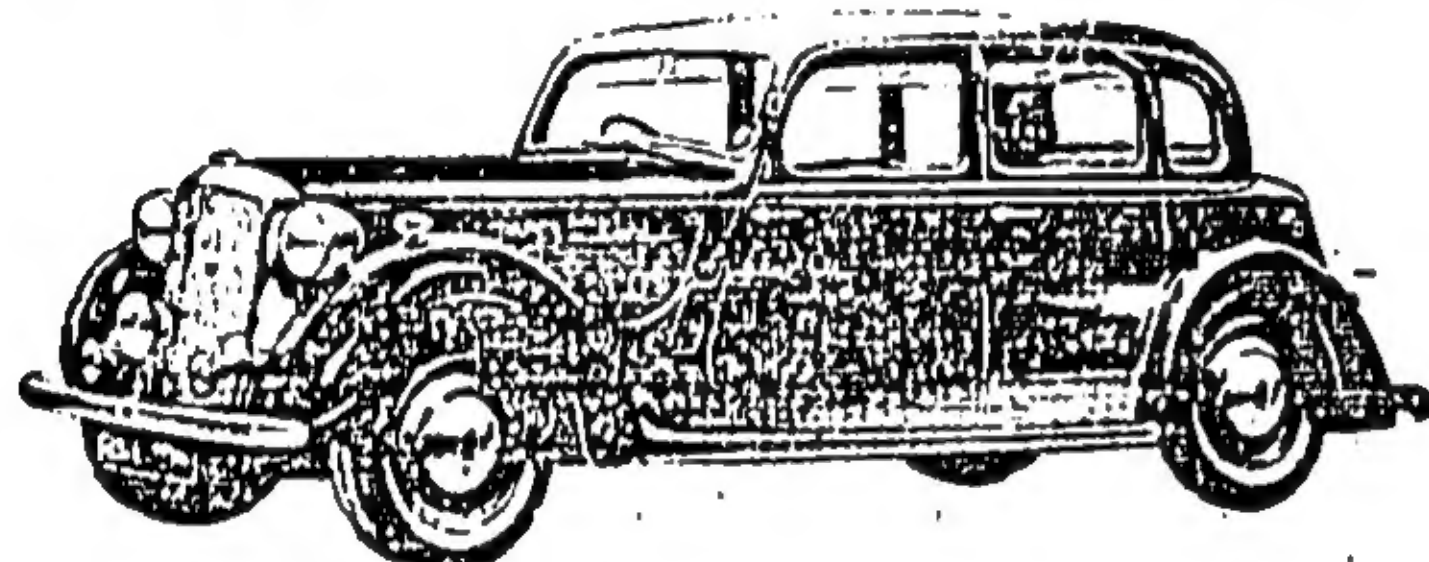
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MOTORING NEWS AND VIEWS

VAUXHALL VELOX HAS POWER AND COMFORT

TAKING A POUNDING

"Immediate impressions are of exceptional liveliness and ease and flexibility of top gear performance," said the "Autocar," commenting on the new Vauxhall Velox in an October number.

The "China Mail" motoring reporter, being a firm believer in quotation if not in downright plagiarism, said exactly the same thing on his return from a jaunt in the Velox with Mr. N. Buerger, manager of China International Motors Limited.

"Going up Garden Road we got to Kennedy Road easily in top gear," our man informed us.

On being asked if that was extraordinary he looked a shade crestfallen and replied that he didn't suppose it was but that "it was very satisfactory wasn't it, with three people in the car and all?"

Fuel Economy

In point of fact the Velox possesses a highly favourable power-to-weight ratio, weighing just over 21 cwt. and having an 18 horsepower engine. This not only gives it a lively performance but also makes for fuel economy. Mr. Buerger claims 24 mpg for the Velox on the island, though it has not been possible to check this yet.

The car's behaviour in traffic leaves little to be desired. Light, rapid-action, hydraulic brakes, responsive steering and a sufficiently clamorous twin horn combine to make the chances of ploughing under indefinite numbers of the local citizenry not more than the customary fifty-fifty.

No signs of stress are shown by the engine when, in top gear, the speed is allowed to drop to below 10 mph. It picks up smoothly from there without pinking. From the stationary position on level ground, second gear is quite low enough to give a smartly accelerated take-off.

Winding up the Peak Road gave a good demonstration of the effectiveness of the independent front suspension by hydraulic shock absorbers. There was no strain or difficulty in maintaining accurate steering on the bends at a reasonably fast pace. Nor was there any noticeable tendency to pitch.

Gear Changing

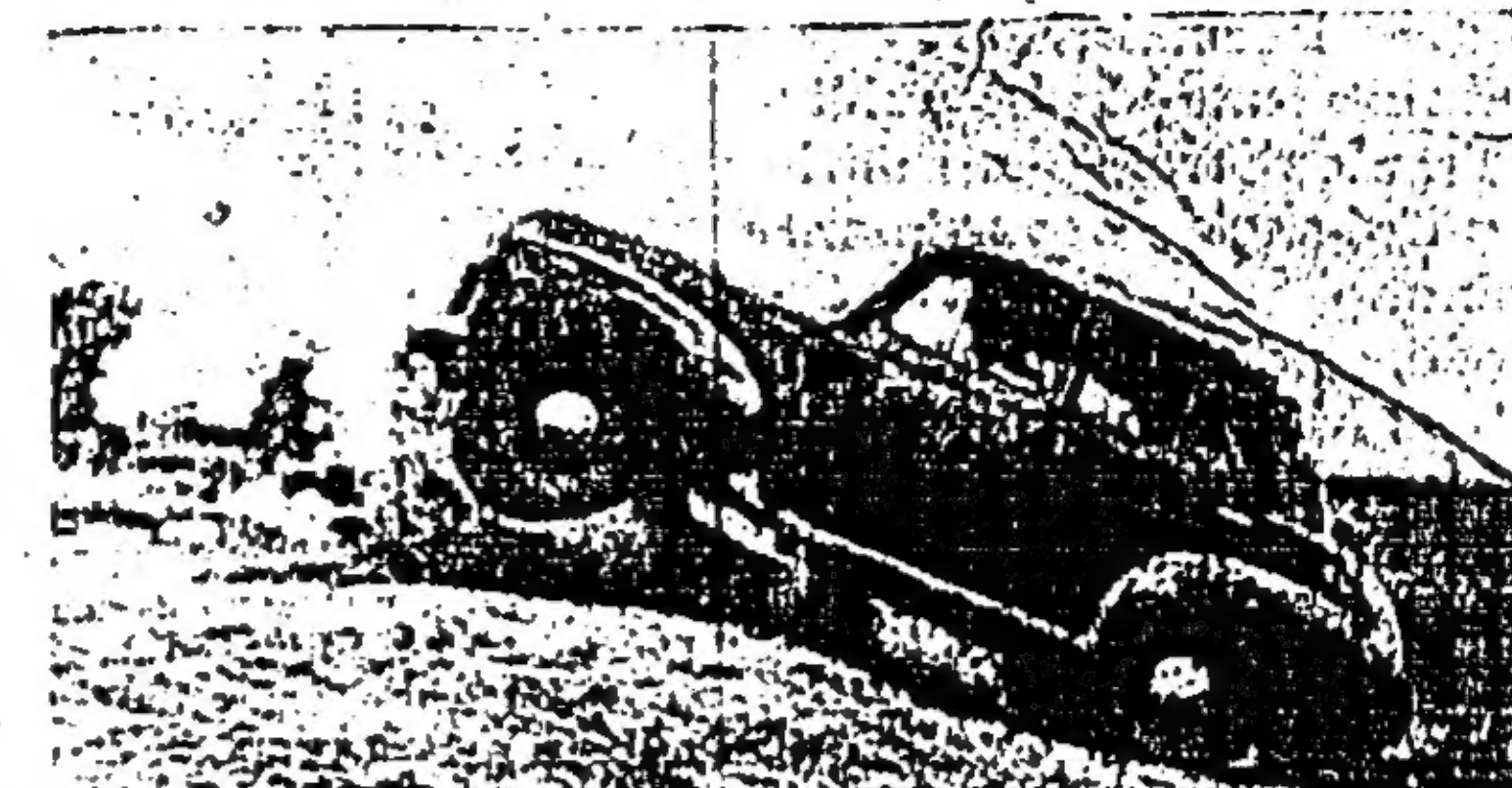
As with the majority of the current English models, the gear-change of the Velox is on the steering column and has the same movements as most of the American cars, the gear-box being three-speed. With the hand brake being situated under the dash on the right of the steering column there is any amount of uncluttered space in the front.

A very sound type of synchromesh makes gear-changing a silent and smooth process for the most brutal of gear-box thrashers. Bench-type seats fore and aft are upholstered in leather. A folding arm rest may be lowered in the centre of the rear seat.

A feature of the Vauxhall is the non-winding windows. Fitted with a balance mechanism they slide down or up very easily without any of the cranking usually required. This, of course, not only saves effort but obviates the ever-present chance of leaping gaily into a car and finding one sleeve of your jacket still dangling outside on the winding handle which had slipped coyly into your cuff unnoticed.

Should you have a pony as a pet it would be quite possible to take him for a ride in the capacious boot of the Velox. For the rarer motorist it will serve as a repository for a sizeable stack of luggage.

In all, the Vauxhall Velox is a roomy, comfortable car with plenty of power and easy to drive. In appearance it is not unlike the old Vauxhall, retaining the well-known fluting along the upper edges of the bonnet in a modified form, but with a smoother, more flowing line to the body.



In the hands of an experienced engineer the first Vauxhall Velox receives a pounding such as few cars get in normal use. The camera caught it as it hit an earth bank at high speed. Note the absence of bonnet flutes and radiator mascot. Early experimental models always travel "incognito."

LOADING MADE EASY



Operating the lever on the side of the lorry which causes the tailboard loader to move up vertically from the ground to the floor level of the lorry.

An hydraulically operated tailboard, which also acts as a loading lift, moving up and down vertically from ground level to the floor of the lorry, was shown at the Commercial Vehicle Transport Exhibition at Earls Court in London recently.

Made by Anthony Hoists Limited of South Ruislip, Middlesex, the tailboard loader can be operated by one man. It takes up to 1500 pounds, is operated by the touch of a lever, and when loading is complete shuts easily like a normal tailboard.



The tailboard loader now level with the floor of the lorry for easy loading.

Reconditioning To Be Upped

Longer life will be given to 25,000 old cars every year as the result of a new engine reconditioning system inaugurated by Morris Motors Limited. The Company has laid out a shop at its Coventry Engine Factory which will specialise in the reconditioning of old engines of various types at the rate of 500 a week.

This arrangement will shortly enable motorists to enjoy quick delivery engines.

which have been completely stripped and rebuilt with new parts and covered by the manufacturer's guarantee.

The decision to extend this unit replacement scheme in this way has been taken as a result of the scarcity of new cars for home delivery and to service cars which have been on the road for upwards of 10 years. It is estimated that there are 10 million cars in the world which are 10 years old or more.

DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRALIA

The State Electricity Commission of Victoria, Australia, is planning the establishment in Melbourne of a large general automotive and plant workshop as a base workshop for its fleet of heavy vehicles. The latter will number 2,000 by 1955 when the workshop is completed.

At present the Commission maintains in service 1,500 machines ranging from seven horsepower cars to diesel-engined semi-trailer combinations capable of carrying loads up to 40 tons.

Vehicles include 10-ton dump-trucks, formerly army trucks with their chassis reinforced and with welded steel bodies fitted. Army armoured cars are being used for scout work to guard the Commission's high-tension line.

The mechanised conveyor system being used in connection with the manufacture of the new Australian motor car, the Holden at Woodville, South Australia, is claimed to be the longest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

It is over a mile in length, and is electrically powered by three automatically synchronised and variable speed-control drive units. Chain tension at the take-up end of the system which is affected usually by temperature variation, is automatically controlled by the mechanism.

Super Snipe Very Speedy

The new Humber Super Snipe saloon is particularly fast with acceleration extremely rapid and a top-gear performance ranging from crawl to 80 miles-per-hour. The wide body provides accommodation for six persons, as the bench-type front seat with centre folding arm rest, adjustable for length, seats three in the front compartment. Soft springing and extra large tyres also make for comfort. The East-lift safety bonnet unlocked from inside the car prevents interference with the engine. A safety catch is incorporated, so that if the bonnet lock is accidentally released while the car is in motion, the bonnet remains fixed in position. Bonnet, interior, and luggage are under lock and key.

Additional models on the Vanguard chassis, recently announced, include an estate car, a pick-up utility vehicle for town or farm use, and a 12-hundred-weight delivery van. The Triumph regulator is now fitted with the same engine as the Vanguard, production of which is steadily increasing. The combined production of cars and Ferguson tractors at the plant at Coventry, Warwickshire, of the Standard Company is at present nearly 500 a day.

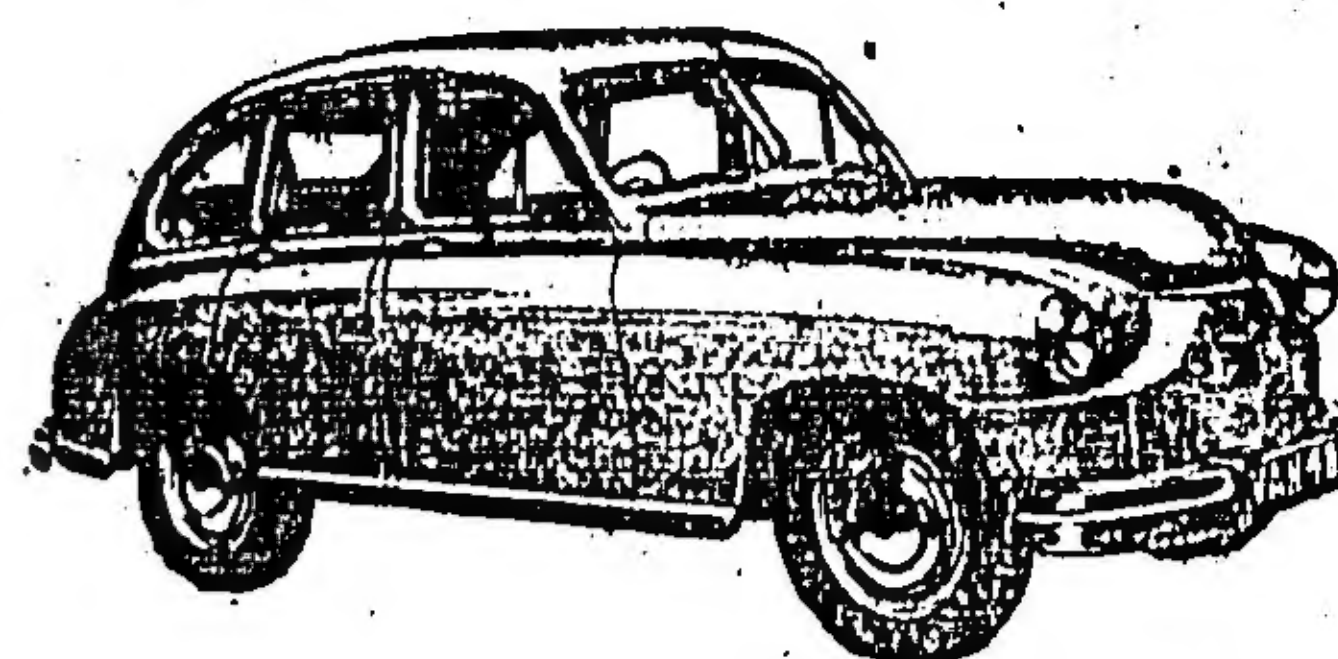
Nuffield's Exports Up

In the first 3 months of this year Nuffield Exports Ltd., shipped more cars and trucks than during the whole of 1947.

This statement was made by Mr. H.E. Hanks, vice-chairman of the Nuffield Organisation, secretary of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders in London recently.

Mr. Hanks added that in order to achieve this record, the company's weekly shipments had exceeded an average of 1,000 vehicles during the period. One third of the total shipment went to the United States and the remainder to other countries.

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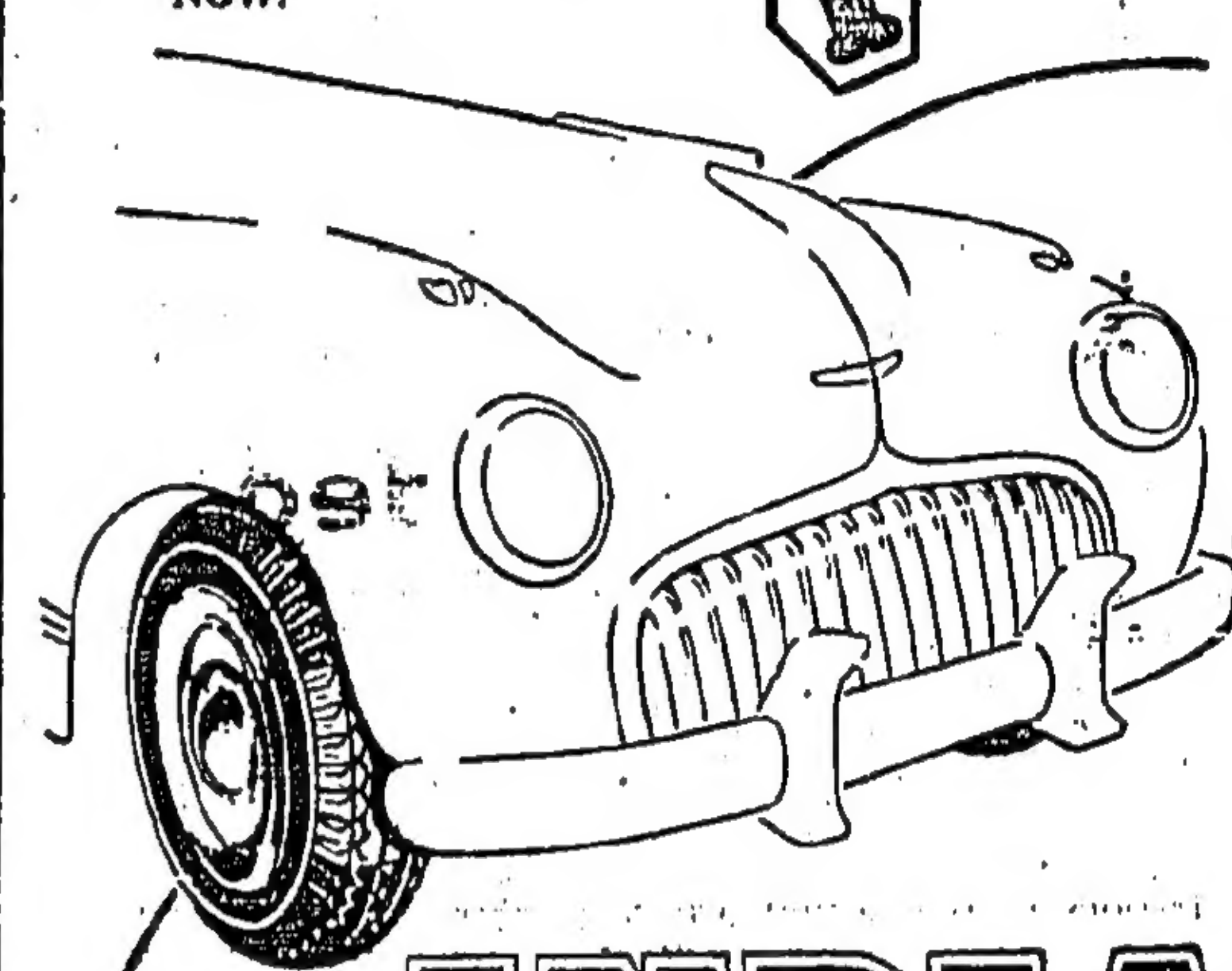
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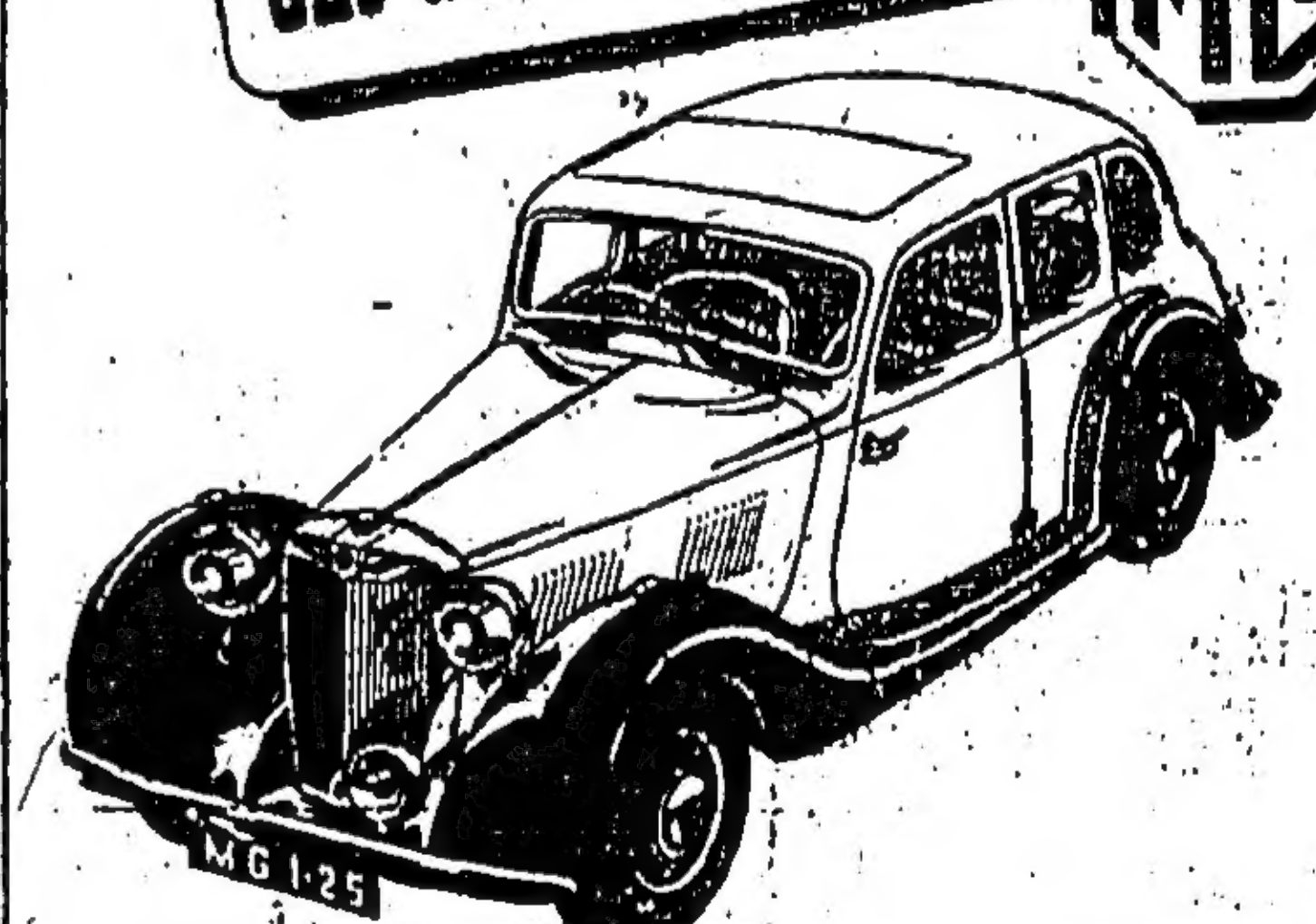
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CRISIS IN INDONESIA

DUTCH CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS

The Hague, December 16.

Holland today said it will resume negotiations with the Indonesian Republic only if the latter ends truce violations and undertakes to become one of the states of Dutch-sponsored Federal Indonesia.

The statement follows United States advice to the Netherlands that it considers that negotiations with the Republic should be resumed.

ATOMIC PILE IN FRANCE

Paris, December 16.

Professor Frederic Joliot Curie, the French High Commissioner for Atomic Energy, told a press conference here tonight that the French atomic pile at Font de Chailion near Paris, which started operating yesterday, is now constantly producing five kilowatts at full pressure.

It is as good as the first American and British plants, he added.

Dr. Kowarski, who helped to build the first Canadian plant and who is Professor Joliot Curie's deputy, said he thought atomic energy would be used for medical purposes in France very shortly.

In answer to a question, Dr. Kowarski said there were no secret atomic studies for military purposes in France. "We are making no bombs. All our operations are totally pacific. Our fundamental researches will be made public," he declared.

Professor Joliot Curie said other nations had refused to reveal to France the result of their researches but France in turn had accomplished certain developments which are still unknown abroad. He declared that France was still in the market for uranium, and would gladly buy from anybody.—Reuter.

A World War Can Be Avoided

London, December 16.

The United Nations can and will stop a third world war, Dr. Harbert Evatt, the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, declared in London tonight.

Asserting that the United Nations Paris Assembly achieved a good deal despite the great power differences, Dr. Evatt,

who is Australia's External Affairs Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, said that to avert a third world war the alternative before the great powers is a modus vivendi enabling Eastern and Western coalitions to co-operate with each other despite political cleavages.

The trend at present is to the United Nations as a dumping ground for problems that the great powers have failed to solve themselves. Dr. Evatt considered that some of the Assembly's greatest difficulties had been caused by great power disagreements existing before the deliberations of the United Nations and in some cases quite separately from them.

He cited the Berlin question, disarmament, atomic energy, Greece and Korea.

An Obsession

The world desire for peace, he thought, would ultimately force the great powers to find a modus vivendi for mutual working that would avert the drift toward war. He added: "The great powers must, as a first step, rid themselves of what might be called the obsession of Europe. They must recognise that not only Europe but the whole world is involved in every major problem, political or economic, that challenges peace."

He warned the world leaders that they—not the United Nations—were on trial. "The peoples of the world are behind the United Nations," he told Reuter on the eve of his departure for Australia.

"If the world's democratic leaders fail the United Nations, they will discover that they are no longer leaders. If they fail, then only positive action by the United Nations as a whole will stand between us and a third world war."—Reuter.

BAN ON WIVES RAISED

Berlin, December 16. This order keeping wives and children from joining British servicemen and Control Commission officials in Berlin was lifted tonight.

The British authorities in Berlin requested London on June 25 to stop sending families to the German capital, because of the delicate situation.—Reuter.

TALKS ON RUHR

London, December 16. The six-power Ruhr Commission met in London today to draft a compromise proposal on the control of the Ruhr industries.

The commission met in plenary session (with outside the day and night sessions) in its work on the Ruhr.—Reuter.

Fought With False Limbs

Rome, December 16. About 3,000 Italian ex-servicemen used their artificial arms and legs to fight policemen during a five-hour demonstration today for higher pensions and a Christmas bonus.

Others lay down in the path of police jeeps.

One ex-serviceman was seriously injured, nine slightly injured and six policemen slightly hurt before a delegation was received at Government headquarters.—Reuter.

New Test In Pregnancy

New York, December 17.

Development of a new and simple pregnancy test is reported in the current issue of the American Journal of Surgery.

In the first 250 cases in which it has been used, the test has been 100 per cent correct, according to Dr. Sherman S. Gert.

To make the test, a female hormone, estrone, is injected three times in five days. If there is no pregnancy, Dr. Gert says, the hormone causes a delayed monthly period to start within 24 hours, sometimes less. He says the test is easier than others, which involve the use of rabbits or other animals and which cost more, are slower and which, war-time tests indicate, are not reliable.—Associated Press.

FOOCHOW BLAZE

Amoy, December 17.

A fire yesterday in the Nantao area of Foochow destroyed more than 100 houses, injuring seven persons.—Associated Press.

U.S. Support For Greece Promised

Athens, December 16.

America will carry out the Truman doctrine of assisting stability and rehabilitation. She will support Greece in its splendid fight against the cruel and oppressive force of totalitarianism.

This was stated today by the U.S. Secretary of the Army, Mr. Kenneth Royall, who has been touring U.S. military installations in Greece.

Earlier today Mr. Royall talked with the Greek War Minister Constantine Rendis, and attended a conference at the Greek General Staff headquarters.

The Greek Government handed Mr. Royall a memorandum on the Northern border problem and are asking for American military aid for the whole of next year.

Their view is believed to be that the frontier problem should be dealt with internationally either by a morale pressure exerted on her neighbours to

GOC UNDER FIRE SPEECH ON REDS' AIMS

London, December 16.

A protest was made in the House of Commons today against a speech by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir John Harding.

General Harding was alleged to have asserted "The Soviet Union is seeking world domination and is preparing for an aggressive war."

Today Left Wing Members of Parliament brought the matter up in the House.

John Platts Mills, who was expelled from the Labour Party, and Stephen Swinger, a Labour Left Winger, asked if the speech was made with the War Minister, Emanuel Shinwell's knowledge and approval, and if orders had been issued to senior officers about pronouncements on Britain's relations with foreign powers?

Mr. Shinwell said the speech was made without his knowledge.

The Regulations

The regulations contain no special reference to relations with foreign powers, but senior officers are expected to make statements on them.

Lieutenant Sir John Harding, in a speech to officers of his Command on Sunday, was reported as saying that sooner or later Russia would be forced to halt her plans for world Communism or go to war in furtherance of them.

"If we are fully prepared to deal with any attacks that Russia could launch upon us, we have a good chance of avoiding war," he said.—Reuter.

PLANES'S RADIO TO PRINCESS

London, December 16.

As the Tudor Four aircraft "Elizabeth of England," flagship of the British South American Airways fleet, left London for Jamaica on her maiden voyage today, the captain radioed the following message to Princess Elizabeth:

"The passengers and crew send their respectful greetings to your Royal Highness from the Royal Mail aircraft 'Elizabeth of England,' alighting for Jamaica on her maiden voyage."

The aircraft was named by Princess Elizabeth at the London Airport last January.

A signed photograph of the Princess, taken at the ceremony, is to be placed in the aircraft's main cabin.—Reuter.

Communism In The Unions

London, December 16.

British miners' leaders today backed a Trade Union Congress report on Communist activity within British unions and another repudiating statements by the union's Communist General Secretary, Mr. Arthur Horner.

The TUC report, already supported by two other big unions, the Transport and the Workers and the Municipal and General Workers, warned that the Communist Party had built up its machinery with the trades union movement with the co-operation of union officials.

The report on Mr. Horner rejected as unauthorised and contrary to union policy his statements in Paris last October that miners would support the Communist-led miners' strike.—Reuter.

WANT TO BE A BARTENDER?

London, December 17.

Want to be a bartender par excellence?

This is how to go about it, according to two Parisians, Jean Lupol and Louis Louison, whose cocktail canisters, visiting London, are available at 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 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999, 1000.

15-POUND BABY

Brussels, December 17. When Madame Hitelet gave birth to her nineteenth baby, the doctor attending her stated it was the largest baby ever born in Europe.

The baby, which died shortly after birth, weighed 15 pounds four ounces.—Associated Press.

ARMS CACHE

Cairo, December 15.

The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior announced tonight that Cairo police have found large quantities of arms, ammunition, grenades, explosives and Vandy lights in a small Cairo shop owned by a member of the banned Muslim Brotherhood Association.—Reuter.

Wolverhampton, December 16. The Duke of Edinburgh, during an official visit to Wolverhampton today, was presented with a George III silver teapot and vase, a cabinet, made at the local art school, and a toy for his son, Prince Charles.—Reuter.

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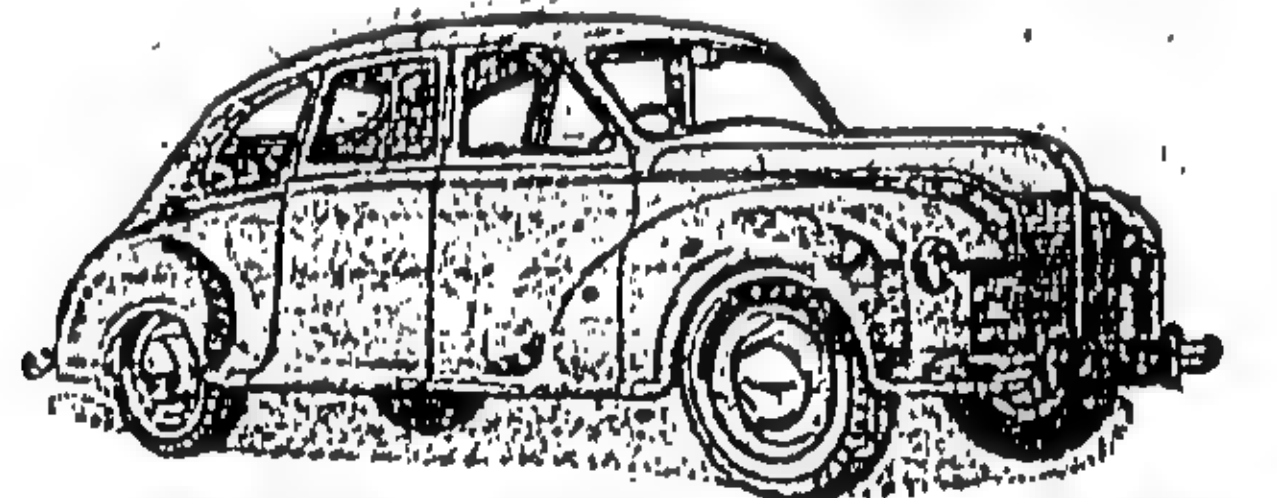
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New President For Swiss

Berne, December 17.

For the first time in history, a Social Democrat was chosen President of Switzerland yesterday with the election of Ernest Nobs, 62, as head of the State for 1948.

The new President was elected by the National Assembly in a secret ballot by 192 votes out of a possible 197.

Mr. Nobs, a German-speaking Swiss, was formerly the editor of the Zurich Socialist paper, Volkerrecht. He is the head of the Department of Internal Revenue. He will continue his departmental duties during the 12 months' term of office as President.—Associated Press.

"HOLY WAR" IN KASHMIR

Lahore, December 16. Fighting in Kashmir State has been declared a holy war in a religious edict by the Muslim Divine of Mecca (Arabia), according to the World Muslim Association of Pakistan.

The edict said: "It is the religious duty of all Muslims in Kashmir and those of Pakistan, Afghanistan, North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan, and the State of Hyderabad to take part in the liberation of Kashmir."—Reuter.

Protest Over Britain's Arrest

London, December 15.

Mr. Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons today that Britain is to protest to Yugoslavia about the case of a British subject who was detained for six weeks without a charge being brought against him.

The Briton, Ernest Whalley, was arrested on September 20, while visiting the Yugoslav frontier North of Trieste.

Mr. Bevin said he is also protesting that no British representative was informed of the time of the arrest and that Whalley was not allowed to communicate with anyone.—Reuter.

DIRTY WORK FOR PURGED WORKERS

Prague, December 16.

The Czechoslovak Trades Union Council asked all workers' councils today to give 10 labour changes the names of people purged from their jobs last February and still unemployed so that they might be directed to suitable work in mines and foundries.

The announcement said there must be taken to see that these people do not given responsible positions or employed in key organizations.—Reuter.

The announcement said there must be taken to see that these people do not given responsible positions or employed in key organizations.—Reuter.

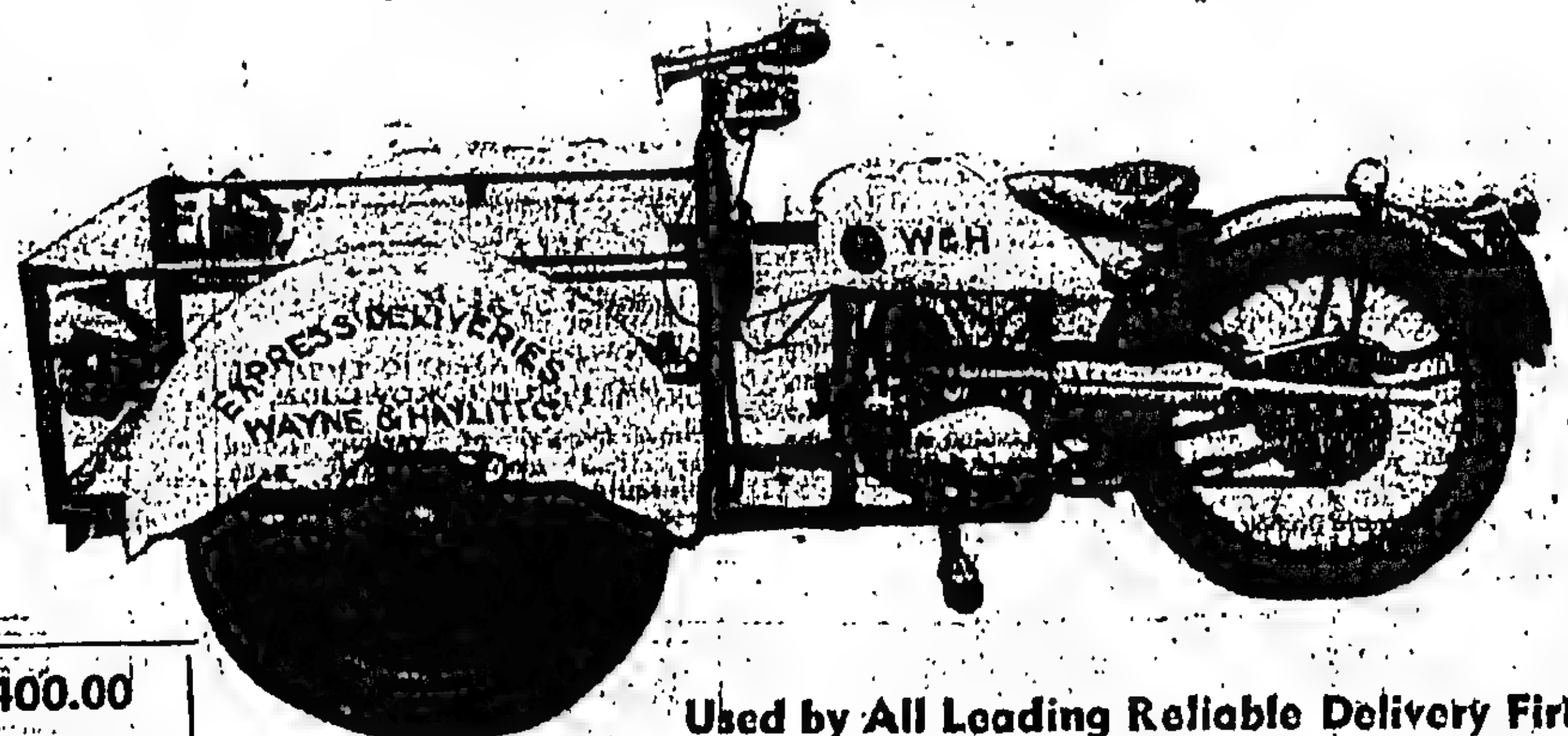
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Wealthy Recluse's Missing Will

London, December 16.

If Sherlock Holmes could only walk the few steps from Baker Street to Grosvenor Square he would find a mystery worthy of his mettle. That goes for other fictional detection wizards, including Perry Mason, Hercule Poirot, The Shadow and The Saint.

In one of those typical British town mansions whose severe facade is a masterpiece of Edwardian splendour, lived Mrs. Daisy Alexander, an elderly eccentric who stuffed her straggly hair under a lace cap and prowled her great salons in a worn blue housecoat.

She was the daughter of Isaac Singer, the sewing machine magnate. In 1940 a German bomb demolished an adjoining room and Mrs. Alexander died suddenly thereafter, apparently from shock.

Barry Cohen, her lawyer, took up the task of clearing up her estate and was puzzled at the absence of a will he knew she made within a year or two of her death. The only instrument he could find was dated 1909 and disposed of only £500,000.

Mrs. Alexander, he knew, was worth between £3,000,000 and £4,000,000 and her estate was increasing by tens of thousands of pounds a year.

Spiritualist Joins In

But the will could not be found. Then the search rocketed right out of the realm of probability. Cohen announced he was looking for a pet parakeet named "Bob" who was a "fluent talker" and pet of Mrs. Alexander. It was hoped that by placing him in the mansion he somehow might lead to the will. But Bob was found dead and stuffed.

A Government ministry gave permission to use a mine detector on the floors and walls of the house. It found a hollow place, but nothing was in it.

A spiritualist wrote in that the will was hidden either in a tall black vase or a Louis XIV gilt settee, covered with yellow silk with a crest of musical instruments. Cohen would have discounted the letter except that those two objects had been in the house during Mrs. Alexander's lifetime and the spiritualist hardly could have known about them. A long search of rummage shops produced the vase, which was found to have a hollow bottom, but it was empty.

The six-legged settee has not yet been found.

Dawson's Pendulum

A West African witch doctor started for Britain to use voodoo but was headed off. A member of a cult called "Dawson's Pendulum" offered to use a secret pendulum device which, he said, would stop at it pointed out the hiding place.

Meanwhile, claimants for the Alexander fortune began mount-

Sandwiches Dropped For Lost Fliers

St. John's, December 16. Ham sandwiches were being parachuted today to nine United States airmen marooned for a week on a remote Greenland ice-cap.

Seven of the men are the crew of a Dakota which crashed on the 7,000 foot ice-cap last Thursday. The other two are would-be rescuers whose flying fortress made a bad landing on the ice 100 miles North of Narsarsuaq.

The men, who have built themselves snow houses, are unlikely to be rescued for a few more days, according to the latest information.—Reuter.

U.K. Trade Treaty With Sweden

London, December 16.

Britain will import in 1949 a substantially increased volume of Swedish goods under a new trade agreement concluded after negotiations in London.

The increased imports under the agreement include iron ore, pulp, timber and newsprint, an announcement from the Treasury said.

"Although Sweden can thus expect to increase her Sterling earnings, her balance of payments position will nevertheless not permit her to issue import licences at the same rate as in 1948 (when the rate was exceptionally high).

"In particular, imports of textiles and machinery will be appreciably reduced," it was added.

Conspiracy In America

Santiago de Chile, December 16.

President Gonzalez Videla of Chile declared today that the Latin-American democracies are between two implacable enemies—Neo-Fascism and Soviet Communism.

He added that recent serious events in various American countries indicate that a continental conspiracy exists. He called for American democratic forces to form a united front.

"We must form a spiritual and economic whole to be an example for the old Europe destroyed by nationalism," he declared.

Some democratic and anti-Communist forces in Chile have not been reluctant to receive aid from Soviet Communism, with the object of gaining Communist help in next March's elections.—Reuter.

GERMAN SHIP REVIVAL A DANGER TO BRITAIN

Glasgow, December 17.

It will be dangerous to let Germany resume construction of ocean-going vessels.

Britain and France must convince America of this, says Sir Murray Stephen, the Glasgow ship-builder.

"The Germans bit us twice. Shall we give them a chance to bite us again?" Sir Murray asked.

"Before the first world war the Germans created a ship-building industry with subsidies and then started making submarines."

"Between the wars they re-established themselves and again started building submarines. Shall we give them another chance? Americans may not appreciate the danger because they did not have the experience of ourselves and the French."

Enough Yards

There are enough ship-building yards elsewhere to serve the world's needs without reviving the industry in Germany, he said.

Sir Murray spoke at the launching of the 5,000-ton Port Richepanse, cargo vessel built by his company for the French Compagnie Generale Trans-Atlantique.

A similar warning was given by Mr. J. W. Coates, who was re-elected Chairman of the short sea liner section of the British Chamber of Shipping today.

Mr. Coates said that the re-appearance of German shipping, especially in the short sea trades would have to be carefully watched.

Mr. Coates, giving his annual review in London to ship-owners interested in short sea routes, added that Germany's rehabilitation has helped the movement of commercial cargoes from Germany, Holland and Belgium and there are welcome signs that these trades are reviving.

High Expenses

High expenses, especially regarding repairs and new tonnage, are causing ship-owners considerable concern.

The volume of traffic in the short sea trades in the year ended last September was less than 70 per cent of that of pre-war, although it was an improvement on 1947.

The tonnage is approximately up to the pre-war figure, but despite this they are still short of ships.

He emphasised the need to improve the turn-round to meet traffic increases with the ships available.—Associated Press and Reuter.

A SOCIALIST SECRETARIAT

London, December 16.

An International Secretariat to exchange economic and administrative experience between Western European Socialist parties may be created early next year.

The proposal will shortly be submitted to the Executive Committee of all Socialist parties affiliated to the Committee of the International Socialist Conference (COMISCO).

The recent London conference of Western European Socialist economists backed the scheme which may be further discussed at a similar conference in Brussels next March.

Any decision could then be taken by COMISCO at its Copenhagen meeting the following month.—Reuter.

LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND HER

Singapore, December 17.

Eight months ago a Royal Navy fumigating party at the Naval base here killed a six-foot cobra discovered on board the minesweeper Test.

Since then HMS Test has been alongside the dock.

Last week the vessel got another fumigation. This yard-long King Cobra was killed.

Fumigation experts believe the latest bag of snakes was hatched from eggs left by the one killed eight months ago.—Associated Press.

Soviet To Return U.S. Ships

Washington, December 15.

The Soviet Union has agreed to return to the United States three ice-breakers and 28 frigates supplied under lend-lease during the last war.

The acting Secretary of State, Mr. Robert Lovett, said today that this agreement by Russia was a step towards settling of lend-lease accounts between two countries.

He expected the negotiations would be resumed shortly.

Mr. Lovett said the arrangement still stood for the transfer of Italian warships to Russia under the Italian peace treaty. This would take place simultaneously with the return to the United States and Britain of vessels they had lent to Russia during the war after the Italian armistice.

Mr. Lovett added that Russia was the only signatory of the Italian treaty who had required the transfer of all vessels allocated to her. After the Italian armistice and while the Italian Navy was operating with the Allies in the Mediterranean, the United States and Britain lent Russia certain naval vessels, roughly the equivalent of the Italian vessels which Russia would now receive from Italy.

These vessels were to be returned to Britain when the Italian vessels were transferred.—Reuter.

BLACK ROD'S RESIGNATION

London, December 15.

It was announced in the House of Lords today that Admiral Sir Geoffrey Blake has received permission from the King to resign his post as Commander-in-Chief of the Black Rod when Parliament reassembles after Christmas.

Sir Geoffrey's decision is necessitated by deafness, as the result of gun blast, which has become progressively worse.

His successor will be named in the New Year.—Reuter.

POP



MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

We Meet But To Part.

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis

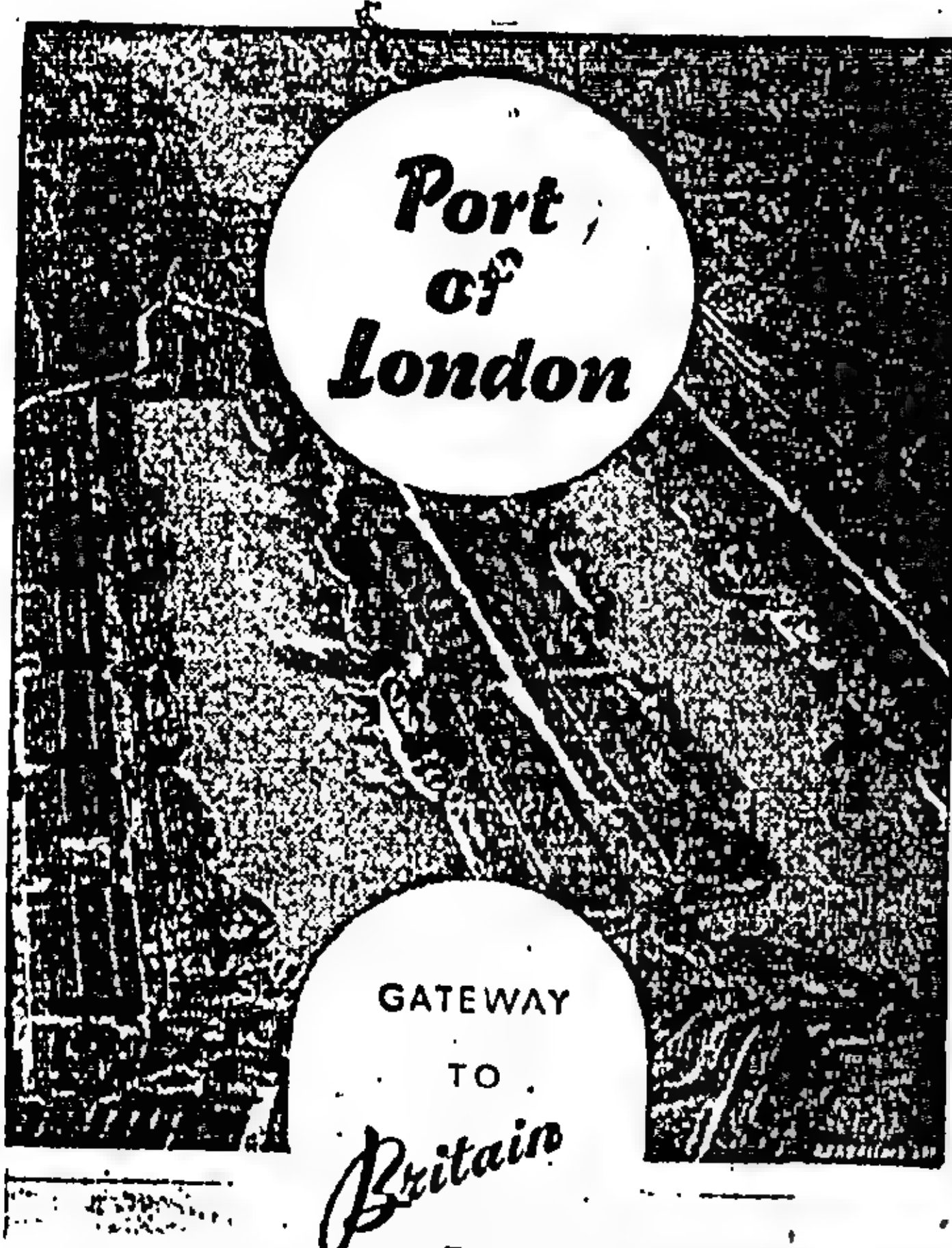


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By ALEX RAYMOND



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"HANYANG"	Swatow	10 a.m. 19th Dec.
"SZECHUEN"	Swatow (Sailon?) & Hongkong	3 p.m. 19th Dec.
"SHENKING"	Shanghai	4 p.m. 21st Dec.
"HANYANG"	Swatow	3 p.m. 22nd Dec.
"HUNAN"	Shanghai, Tientsin, Incheon & Pusan	4 p.m. 22nd Dec.
"ANHUI"	Amoy, Swatow, Hoihow, Penang & Belawan	5 p.m. 23rd Dec.
"FOYANG"	Bangkok	24th Dec.
"FENGTEI"	Singapore, Macassar, Sourabaya & Batavia	28th Dec.

ARRIVALS FROM		
"SHENKING"	Shanghai & Keelung	1 p.m. 18th Dec.
"HUNAN"	Tientsin	noon 18th Dec.
"ANHUI"	Swatow & Amoy	3 p.m. 19th Dec.
"NINGHAI"	Samarinda & Sandakan	7 a.m. 20th Dec.
"HANYANG"	Swatow	8 a.m. 21st Dec.
"FOYANG"	Japan	21st Dec.
"FENGTEI"	Singapore	22nd Dec.
"NEWCHANG"	Bangkok	23rd Dec.
"HUPEI"	Tientsin, Incheon & Pusan	29th Dec.

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	Arrives from Canton 10 a.m. 21st Dec.	
"WUDEH"	Sails for Macao 2.30 p.m. daily except Sundays.	
	Arrives from Macao 6.30 a.m. on Tuesdays.	
	to Saturdays & 5.45 p.m. on Sundays.	

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"AGAPENOR"	"	26th Dec.
"AENEAS"	"	29th Dec.
"ANTALUS"	"	Mid. Jan.

Sailings to		
"SARFEDON"	Liverpool & Glasgow via Port Said	20th Dec.
"GLENIVY"	Liverpool & Port Said	29th Dec.
"AGAPENOR"	Liverpool & Glasgow via Port Said	7th Jan.

NEW YORK SERVICE		
Arrivals from		
"RIKSENOR"	U.S.A. via Manila & Shanghai	2nd Jan.
"MEYMON"	U.S.A. via Manila	15th Jan.

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"SOOCHOW"	Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane	4th Jan.?
Arrivals from		
"SOOCHOW"	Sydney, Brisbane & Manila	28th Dec.
"PRODUCE"	Australia	5th Jan.

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SUPREME COURT AND CONVICTED JAP LEADERS

Washington, December 16. The Supreme Court was bombarded today with arguments for and against its intervention in the case of the seven convicted Japanese warlords. The immediate issue is the Court's authority to review the convictions.

The Justices acknowledged in statements from the Bench that it posed a difficult problem. The judges questioned Mr.

William Logan, defence attorney, closely on his claim that General MacArthur went beyond his authority in establishing the Far East court to try the Japanese.

The Chief Justice, Mr. Fred Vinson, pointed out that it was an 11-nation Tribunal, Mr. Logan said, "There is no other court to which we can go."

Mr. Vinson: "May there not be 10 others?"

Mr. Justice Frankfurter interrupted Mr. Logan at another point to observe: "Something may be illegal and yet international and so be something over which this court has no jurisdiction."

Mr. Frankfurter went on to say that the Far East Tribunal was an international organization no matter how it got into being. He said: "It is a matter of no moment whether we initiated it, or Great Britain or Iran."

Mr. Vinson observed that the constitution limited the Supreme Court's authority in international cases to those affecting Ambassadors and other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which the State was a party.

He then asked: "In which of those does this case fall?" Mr. Logan: "None of them."

However, Mr. Logan added that he believed the constitution should be elastic enough to permit the court to go into other international problems.

He said the U.S. President and military authorities, without Congressional approval, had created offences against the laws of the nation. He asserted this was usurpation of authority reserved for the United States Congress.

United Press.

ITALIAN ENVOY SEES BEVIN

London, December 16. The Italian Ambassador in London, Duke Tommaso Gallarati, met the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, this evening and is believed in diplomatic quarters here to have discussed with him the question of Italy's former colonies.

His future is still uncertain as the United Nations General Assembly in Paris had postponed a decision until next year. A spokesman of the Italian Embassy said the Italian Ambassador had called at the Foreign Office to have a general discussion on the international situation before leaving for Rome next Monday.

Reuter.

POPE RECEIVES KOREA SENATOR

Rome, December 16. The Pope today received in audience Senator John Myung Chiu, head of the Korean mission which attended the United Nations meetings in Paris.

Reuter.

HARRY POLLITT IN WARSAW

Warsaw Radio reported that the General Secretary of the British Communist Party, Harry Pollitt, received a tremendous ovation at an international Communist gathering here today when he declared that British working men would never fight against the Soviet Union.

"The audience, representing 22 countries, applauded when the British delegate denounced the imperialist policy of the Anglo-Saxon countries," the broadcast said.

Reuter.

INDEPENDENCE OF CAMBODIA

Salon, December 16. The independence of Cambodia within the framework of the French Union was formally celebrated at Phnom-penh today when General Roger Bialot, the acting High Commissioner, exchanged documents with King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia.

Reuter.

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New Ship Strike On The West Coast?

San Francisco, December 17. The AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific, demanding new wage increases, today raised the possibility of a new West Coast shipping strike.

The Union filed a 60-day strike notice with the Labour Department, and Mr. Harry Lundberg, Head of the Union, said: "The notice is a safeguard—just in case we have to take the hard way."

The Union was not a party to the recently ended 95-day maritime strike, but now is demanding wage boosts for its members ranging from \$20 to \$60 monthly, which would boost the top salary for some boatwains to \$350 monthly.

Associated Press.

Trouble Brewing Up In Berlin

Berlin, December 16.

The Soviet Commandant of Berlin, Major General Alexander Kotikov, tonight made a personal protest to the French Commandant, General Jean Ganeval.

He protested against the blowing up of the Soviet-controlled Berlin Radio transmitters in the French sector of the city.

German circles close to the Russian Military Administration said tonight that Moscow had sent direct orders to prepare for the carrying out of severe counter-measures. This report could not be confirmed.

General Kotikov, who drove to the French Military Headquarters, told General Ganeval that he could not accept as satisfactory his explanation that the transmitters were blown up because they constituted a danger to the airport at nearby Tegel Airport.

A French official spokesman said that General Ganeval took note of General Kotikov's protest but again asserted that the safety of British and American supply planes landing at Tegel Airport was the only consideration when he made his decision.

The interview lasted less than 15 minutes.

"We Will Reply"

Berlin Radio resumed medium wave transmissions shortly before 10.00 p.m. local time after a break of 12 hours.

The Radio's director, Heide Schmidt, after apologising to listeners for the breakdown, said: "The transmitters were destroyed because, unlike our studios in the British sector of the city, they were not protected by Soviet arms."

Reuter.

British India

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"CANTON" sailed 10th April

"CARIBBEAN" sailed 8th May

"CORFU" sailed 6th June

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"CANTON" 11st February

"CARIBBEAN" 15th March

"CORFU" 16th April

"CANTON" 10th May

"CARIBBEAN" 15th June

"CORFU" 6th July

Via Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden & Port Said.

FREIGHT SERVICE

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sails 18th Dec. for Kure, Kobe & Yokohama

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sails 22nd Dec. for London via Straits, Colombo & Continent

"BURAT" due 2nd Jan. from London & Continent

sails 5th Jan. for Shanghai & Japan

via Straits

"TREVANION" sails 26th Jan. for London & Continent

via Straits & Colombo

"TREVANION" sails 12th Jan. for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, London & Continent

via Straits

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due 4th Jan. from Calcutta via Rangoon & Straits

sails 11th Jan. for Amoy, Japan & Shanghai

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due 17th Jan. from Calcutta via Rangoon & Straits

sails 20th Jan. for Amoy & Japan

"BIRDHANA" (Apar Line)

due 23rd Jan. from Japan, Shanghai & Amoy

sails 26th Jan. for Straits, Rangoon & Calcutta

"SHIRALA" (Apar Line)

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S.S. "STEEL FABRICATOR" " 28th Feb.

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"TJISADANE" from Macassar & Javaport, 24th December	to Javaport & Macassar, 21st January
"TASMAN" from Macassar & Javaport, 24th December	to Javaport & Macassar, 21st January
"TJIBADAK" in port	to Javaport & Macassar 3rd February

ASIA-AFRICA-SOUTH AMERICA SERVICE

Arrivals	Sailings
"TEGELBERG" in port	to South Africa & South America 25th January
"KUYU" from South America & South Africa 17th January	to South Africa & South America 25th February
"STRAAT MALAKKA" from South America & South Africa 9th March	to South Africa & South America 29th March
"BOISSEvain" from South America & South Africa 20th March	to South Africa & South America 18th April

SUMATRA-MALAYA-CHINA SERVICE

Arrivals	Sailings
"TITJALENGKA" from Amoy 21st December	to Singapore, 23rd December
"VAN RIEMSDIJK" from B. Deli & Straits 25th December	to Straits & B. Deli, 6th January

Agents: HOLLAND-EAST ASIA LINE

Arrivals	Sailings
"MOLENNERK" from Japan & Shanghai 28th Dec.	to Europe via Manila & Straits, 29th December
"MEERKERK" from Europe early Jan.	to Europe via Manila & Straits, Mid January
"RIJNKERK" from Europe End January	to Europe via Manila & Straits, Mid February

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m.v. "TONGHAI"	4th Feb.

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FINANCE AND COMMERCE

UNITED STATES BRINGS SUIT AGAINST MAJOR RUBBER FIRMS

Cleveland, December 17

The Justice Department today filed a civil anti-trust suit to break up an alleged world cartel in natural rubber products.

The suit, filed by the Attorney-General, Tom C. Clark, named as co-defendants three major American and English rubber firms.

They are the United States Rubber Company of New York, Consolidated Rubber Manufacturers, Ltd. of New York and London, and Dunlop Rubber Company Ltd. of London.

The complaint also names 13 "co-conspirators" operating in foreign countries although they are not cited as defendants.

The complaint alleges that the defendants and "co-conspirators" have divided world markets in latex products, including rubber thread, elastic yarn and various fabrics by agreeing not to sell or ship these products to a territory allocated to another defendant or co-conspirator.

The suit also alleges that a world-wide patent pool is maintained.

Object Of Suit

It claims that the result of these alleged activities is to eliminate competition among those named in the action throughout the markets of the world.

The objective of the suit, Mr. Clark said, is not only to free increasingly important commodities from restrictive practices, but also to further U.S. national policy against artificial barriers to U.S. domestic and foreign trade and commerce.

Mr. Herbert A. Bergson, Assistant Attorney General, said, "International competitors cannot be permitted to establish a private foreign trade policy for this country."

The suit asked that the purported restrictive cartel arrangements between the defendants and the co-conspirators be ended and that they definitely divest themselves of all jointly owned financial interests.

Trade Marks

The suit also asked the court to take necessary action regarding patents, trade marks, and trade names "to dissipate the effects of the unlawful activities and to establish fair competition in the commerce involved."

The 13 interests named as "co-conspirators" are: Dominion Rubber Co. Ltd., Montreal; Hungarian Rubber Goods Factory Ltd., Budapest.

Money Market

Gold opened at HK\$203 a tael yesterday, climbed to \$205, and closed at \$204.37 1/2.

U.S. dollars were steadier after the previous day's drop to HK\$5.01. Opening rate yesterday was \$5.03 1/2, and closing rate a quarter cent better.

Gold Yuan dropped to 91 cents. Canton remittances were accepted at 8.3 cents and 8 cents. Shanghai remittances were at 8.4 cents.

Plastics continued to drop and were down to HK\$7.50 a 100 yesterday.

Tin improved slightly to HK\$25.10 a 100. NEI Guilcers opened at HK\$33.20 and closed at \$33.30 a 100.

Sterling went up to HK\$14.75, and Australian pounds improved by two cents to HK\$12.50.

London Stock Exchange

London, December 16. The market in Venezuelan Oil Concessions was strong and active today. This followed the news that the Royal Dutch-Shell group is to offer to Venezuelan shareholders two Shells for every one Venezuelan held.

Keen buying of the latter lifted the price up to 7-7 1/2, a gain of 1/2. Other oils were quietly firm.

Today brought the payout of some £20,000,000 in connection with the Argentine railways. The hopes of reinvestment sold other sections at slightly higher levels.

Gifted market higher to the extent of 1/16 and there were very small gains among tobacco, breweries and miscellaneous leaders. Cable and Wireless stocks were a firm feature on good buying that found the market short of supplies.

Foreign bonds were steady but idle. The foreign railway market showed small declines in the Leopoldville issues.

With the Johannesburg market closed today, South African mines were quiet but selectively firm.

SECURITIES: British Consols, 2 1/2% 79-9 1/2. Conversion Loan, 5 1/2% 100 1/2. Funding Loan, 4 1/2% 100 1/2. War Loan, 3 1/2% 100 1/2. War Loan, 3 1/2% 100 1/2. Victory Bonds, 4 1/2% 100 1/2.

INDUSTRIALS: British American Tobacco (of G.B. & Ireland) 5-29 1/2. Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. 18 1/2. Imperial Tobacco Co. (of G.B. & Ireland) 5-21 1/2.

TEA SHARES: Assam Consolidated Tea 21 1/2. Assam Frontier Tea 16 1/2. Assam Tea Company 25 1/2. Pussara Tea Company 25 1/2. Somp. of India & Serron Tea Co. 15 1/2. Imperial Tea Company 27 1/2.

MINING SHARES: Burma Corp. 8 1/2. Crown Mines 8 1/2. Nanyangtung Mines 10 1/2. Rand Mines 4-15 1/2. Spring Mines 7 1/2. Sub Minerals 3-16 1/2. Taseco Tin Co. 1 1/2. Union Corporation 210 1/2.

OIL SHARES: Royal Dutch Co. 24 1/2. Shell Transport & Trading Co. 2-21 1/2. S. & O. Steam Navigation Co. 62 1/2. GULF STEAMERS: Funding Loan, 3 1/2% 100 1/2. National War Bonds, 4 1/2% 100 1/2.

1949/51 100-21 1/2. 1952/54 100-1 1/2. 1954/56 100-7 1/2. 1956/58 100-4 1/2. 1958/60 100-1 1/2.

FOREIGN BONDS: German Loan (Hawes) 7 1/2. Japanese 5 1/2. 100/11 100 1/2. Japanese 6 1/2. 102 1/2/50 100 1/2. Jap. S. Manchurian Ry. 5 1/2. 102 1/2.

BANKS: Chartered Bank of I.A. & C. 11-7 1/2. Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank, 102. Mercantile Bank of India 24 1/2.

CHINESE EXTERNAL LOANS: Tientsin-Pukow Railway, 5 1/2. Lung-Tung-U-Hai Ry., 5 1/2. 1913 9. Hong Loan, 5 1/2. 1913 12. Crip Loan, 5 1/2. 1913 12. Hukwang Railway, 5 1/2. 1911. 9. Honan Railway, 5 1/2. 1902. 9. Shanghai Nanking Ry., 5 1/2. 9. Howden Canton Railway, 5 1/2.

Sterling Bonds 11. -Heute.

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"LAKELAND VICTORY"	Los Angeles	Dec. 23	Dec. 23
"FLYING DRAGON"	San Francisco	Dec. 21	Dec. 21
"SURPRISE"	San Francisco	Jan. 22	Jan. 22
"EXPRESS DEAR"	San Francisco	Jan. 21	Jan. 21
"SEA SERPENT"	San Francisco	Jan. 21	Jan. 21

For full particulars call General Agents UNITED STATES LINE CO., Queen's Bldg. Tel. 31191

Hong Kong Stock Exchange

Sentiment during the past week has been good, accompanied by an expansion in the volume of business transacted, in many cases quotations showing an advance on those ruling at the beginning of the week. Closing tone steady.

H.K. GOVT. BONDS: 4 1/2% Loan 101 1/2. 3 1/2% Loan (1934 & 1940) 100 1/2. 3 1/2% Loan (1940) 100 1/2 plus int.

HANKS: H.K. & S. Bank 185 1/2. (Lon. Rev.) 103 1/2. 4 1/2% 100 1/2. Chartered Bank 211 1/2. Mercantile Bank 211 1/2. Bank of East Asia 150.

INSURANCE: Canton Ins. 37 1/2. Union Ins. 73 1/2. 73 1/2. China Underwriters 2.90n. H.K. Fire Ins. 27 1/2.

SHIPPING: Hongkong 23 1/2. H.K. & S. Steamship 17 1/2. India China (Fret) 45n. (Def.) 25 1/2. Shell (Steamer) 14 1/2. U. Waterfront 21n.

DOCKS, WHARVES, CONWONS, Etc.: H.K. & S. Wharves (Ord.) 21 1/2. (New) 32n. North Point Wharves 7 1/2. H.K. Hongkong Wharves 34n. H.K. Dock 28 1/2. China Freighters 19.50n. Shanghai Dockyards 10b. 10n.

MINING: H.K. Mines 34n. LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS: H. & S. Hotels 15.50n. 15.50n. H.K. Land 5n. H.K. Land 2 1/2. 3.05n. 3.05n. 3.05n. 3.05n. Humphreys (S. Ry.) 14.50n. (Rights) 8 1/2. H.K. Real Estate 1.65n. Chinese Estates 37n.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: H.K. Tramways 16.70n. 16n. Peak Tram (Ord.) 21n. (New) 11n. Blue Vertice 134n. C. Light 1. (S. Ry.) 13 1/2. 13.50n. 14/15.50n. (Rights) 6 1/2. 6.70n. 6.00/6 1/2. H.K. Electric 57 1/2. 57 1/2. Macao Electric 20 1/2. Handan Lights 16 1/2. Telephone 30 1/2. Shanghai Gas 4 1/2.

INDUSTRIALS: Cold Macc. (Ord.) 30n. Canton Ice Co. 35n. 40n. H.K. Rope 19b. 20n. STORES & FACTORIES: Dairy Farms (Ord.) 41b. 41 1/2. (New) 41n. 40 1/2. Watsons (Ord.) 89 1/2. 89 1/2. L. Crawford (Ord.) 25n. (New) 21n. Sincere X.D. 7n. China Importers 9 1/2. Sun Co. Ltd. X.D. 4n. Kwong Sang Hong 14n. Wing On (H.K.) 107n. Wm. Powell, Ltd. 11n.

MISCELLANEOUS: China Entertainment 35n. H.K. Constructions (Ord.) 4 1/2. (New) 4n. Vibros (Ord.) 20n. (New) 21n. Nanyang Investments 3 1/2. Nanyang (H.K.) 1.00b. 2n. Shanghai Loan 3 1/2. COTTONS: Yew Wah 3.00n. RUDDER, ETC. COMPANIES: Anglo-Java 6 1/2. Cheng Rubbers 70n. Consolidated Rubbers 2 1/2. Dunlop Rubbers 2n. Kota Bharu 2n. Padang Rubbers 1n. Rubber Trust 3 1/2. Singapore Rubbers 110n. Shanghai Pabank 1n. Tash. Metals 30d. Tebing Rubbers 60n. Zangbe Rubbers 6n.

Notice To Consignees

S.S. "TAKSANG"

From Calcutta/Straits/Saigon arrived December 16, 1948.

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will be surveyed in the premises of the Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22, 1948. Consignees are advised to have their Representatives present during the survey.

Consignees are warned that claims for damage or shortage may not be accepted if the damage is not surveyed by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas in the presence of Consignees' Representatives at this appointed time.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., General Managers, Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES HOLDING

P. & O. B. I. & E. & A. BILLS OF LADING

Messrs. Goddard & Douglas will attend at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays within the free storage period to survey damaged cargo and consignees are requested to have their representatives present. Unless consignees representatives are present at the survey no claims can thereafter be admitted. MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO.

Agents: P. & O. S. N. Co. B. I. S. N. Co. Ltd. E. & A. S. S. Co. Ltd.

Notice To Consignees

M/V "PARAMATTA"

Having arrived Hongkong consignees of cargo are hereby notified that all goods have been landed and placed at their risk and expense into the godowns of the China Provident L. & M. Co., Ltd. where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the godowns.

All broken, chafed and damaged goods are to be left in the godown where they will be examined in the presence of Messrs. Goddard and Douglas on December 21, 1948, at 10 a.m.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, consignees must have a Revenue Officer's attendance, when examining damaged dutiable goods, and the goods must be presented to the Underland within fourteen days of the ship's arrival, or they will not be recognized. No fire insurance will be effected.

WILLIAMS & CO., Agents, Telephone 34171-2.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

Cargo Oil Tanks
Refrigeration—Cargocalre

TO HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO

"General Meigs" (via Manila & Guam)	Jan. 4
"President Wilson" (via Japan)	Jan. 15
"General Gordon" (via Japan)	Jan. 30

TO SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES

"President Taft" (via Japan)	Jan. 15
"President Madison" (via Japan)	Jan. 21

TO NEW YORK, BALTIMORE & BOSTON VIA PANAMA

"Dartmouth Victory"	Jan. 24
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ROUND-THE-WORLD

VIA SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, KARACHI, SUEZ, ALEXANDRIA, MARSEILLES, GENOA, NAPLES, NEW YORK and BOSTON

"President Jefferson"	Jan. 9
"Marine Snapper"	Jan. 30
"President Polk" (calls Manila)	Feb. 6

ARRIVING FROM SAN FRANCISCO

"Dartmouth Victory"	Jan. 1
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St. George's Bldg.

Tel. Nos. 28172/28176

American Pioneer Line

Arrivals from New York, Boston.

Other Atlantic Ports via Panama

"RESOLUTE"	Dec. 24
"COURSER"	Jan. 2

Sailings to Manila

"RESOLUTE" (Manila, Cebu, Iloilo)	Dec. 25
"COURSER"	Jan. 3

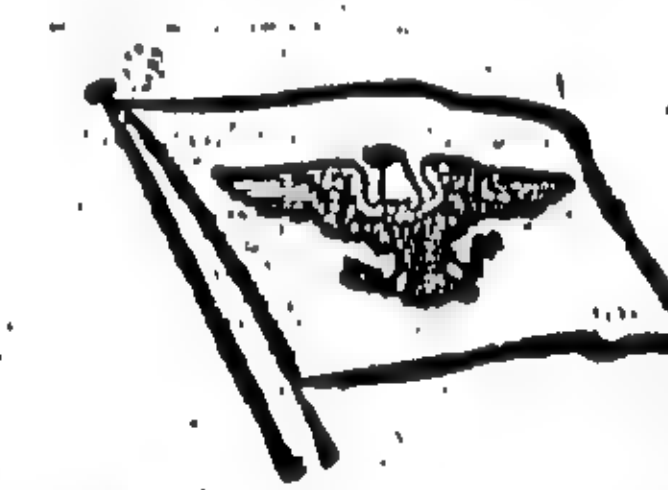
Sailings to New York, Boston, Philadelphia

Baltimore & Other Atlantic Ports via Panama Canal

—Special Cargo Oil Tanks—

"STAGHOUND"	Dec. 22	Sails Dec. 23
"GREENBAY VICTORY"	Dec. 27	Sails Dec. 28
"RESOLUTE"	Dec. 13	Sails Jan. 14

For Full Particulars Call



UNITED STATES LINES

Company

Queen's Building

Tel. 31251 (3 lines)



ARRIVALS

SHIP	FROM	DUE
S.S. "BENARTY"	U.K.	19th Dec.
S.S. "BENLOMOND"	U.K.	Late Dec.
S.S. "BENVIRACKIE"	U.K.	Mid Jan.

SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	LOADING
S.S. "BENARTY"	Aden, Port Said, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg & Hull	22nd Dec.
S.S. "BENNEVIS"	Aden, Port Said, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg & Hull	End Dec.
S.S. "BENVIRACKIE"	Aden, Port Said, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg & Hull	Mid Jan.
S.S. "BENLOMOND"	Aden, Port Said, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg & Hull	End Jan.
S.S. "BENARTY"	Aden, Port Said, Havre, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg & Hull	3rd Jan.

* Calls at Genoa.

† Calls at Leth.

For Further Particulars, Apply To—

W. R. LOXLEY & CO. (CHINA) LTD.

Agents

York Building Telephone: 34163.

KLAVENESS LINE

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES

ARRIVALS FROM

S.S. "MANDO" Japan, Reg. Jan.
S.S. "CHAMPOLLION" Europe via Saigon, Mid Jan.
S.S. "GRONLAND" Europe via Singapore, on or about 26th Dec.

SAILING TO

S.S. "MANDO" Europe via Saigon, Reg. Jan.
S.S. "CHAMPOLLION" Europe via Saigon, Mid Jan.
S.S. "GRONLAND" Europe via Saigon, on or about 26th Dec.

For Passage and Freight Apply To—
CIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES
Queen's Building, Tel. 20051 (three Lines)

WATERMAN STEAMSHIP CORPORATION
MOBILE, ALA., U.S.A.

EXPRESS SERVICE TO NEW YORK
via Panama.

S.S. "ANDREW JACKSON" loading Hong Kong 27th Dec.
S.S. "MADART" " " " " 17th Jan.
S.S. "KYSKA" " " " " 28th Jan.

DIRECT for New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, via Honolulu.

Limited Passenger accommodation

Tanks available for bulk oil cargoes

For freight and further particulars apply—

WALLEM & COMPANY

Agents

Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Bldg. Tel. 34177-9

THE PACIFIC ORIENT EXPRESS LINE

LOADING FOR U.S. PACIFIC COAST PORTS

M.V. "PARRAMATTA" loading Hong Kong 10th Dec.

DUE FROM U.S. PACIFIC COAST PORTS

M.V. "VITO" " " " " 9th Jan.

For Freight and further particulars apply direct to—

WALLEM AND CO.

Agents

Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building, Tel. 34177-9

IVARAN LINES FAR EAST SERVICE

Loading for U.S. Atlantic Coasts
Via Honolulu

"IVARAN" loading Hong Kong 18th Dec.

Oil Tanks Available

"BORGHOLT" discharging Hong Kong 19th Dec.

For freight and further particulars apply to—

WALLEM & CO.

Agents

Hongkong Bank Building, Tel. 34177-9

MAERSK LINE

A. F. MOLLER, COPENHAGEN.

Moller Steamship Company Ltd. New York
General Agents in U.S.A.



MONTHLY SAILINGS TO NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA,
BALTIMORE, BOSTON VIA SAN FRANCISCO,
LOS ANGELES AND PANAMA

Accepting transshipment cargo for Caribbean and Gulf Ports

M.S. "GERTRUDE MAERSK" December 30

M.S. "MARCHEN MAERSK" " " 12

Special Tanks available for the carriage of oil in bulk

ARRIVALS FROM NEW YORK AND OTHER U.S. PORTS

M.S. "TREN MAERSK" December 25

M.S. "CORNELIUS MAERSK" " " 2

For freight and further particulars apply to—

JEBSEN & CO. Tel. 34177-9

AIR AND SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

TODAY

CNAC ex-Shanghai 11:45 a.m. ex-Amoy via Canton, 2:45 p.m. ex-Taipei via Swatow, 4:10 p.m. ex-Amoy via Swatow, 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. ex-Canton 9:25 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m.

CATC ex-Taipei via Amoy, Swatow, 6:30 p.m. ex-Nanking via Canton, 6:30 p.m.

HK AIRWAYS ex-Canton 9:10 a.m. 11:50 a.m., 2:40 p.m., 4:10 p.m.

FAA ex-Ban Francisco via Honolulu, Wake, Tokyo, Shanghai, 3:10 p.m. ex-Ban Francisco via Honolulu, Wake, Tokyo, Shanghai, 2 p.m. ex-Hongkong, 4:30 p.m.

PAL ex-Ban Francisco via Honolulu, Guam, Manila, 12 noon.

HOAC ex-Singapore 4 p.m. ex-Shanghai 5 p.m.

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DEPARTURES

TODAY

CNAC ex-Shanghai 11:45 a.m. ex-Amoy via Canton, 2:45 p.m. ex-Taipei via Swatow, 4:10 p.m. ex-Amoy via Swatow, 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. ex-Canton 9:25 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m.

CATC ex-Taipei via Amoy, Swatow, 6:30 p.m. ex-Nanking via Canton, 6:30 p.m.

HK AIRWAYS ex-Canton 9:10 a.m. 11:50 a.m., 2:40 p.m., 4:10 p.m.

FAA ex-Ban Francisco via Honolulu, Wake, Tokyo, Shanghai, 3:10 p.m. ex-Ban Francisco via Honolulu, Wake, Tokyo, Shanghai, 2 p.m. ex-Hongkong, 4:30 p.m.

PAL ex-Ban Francisco via Honolulu, Guam, Manila, 12 noon.

HOAC ex-Singapore 4 p.m. ex-Shanghai 5 p.m.

TOMORROW

CNAC ex-Shanghai 11:45 a.m. ex-Amoy via Canton, 2:45 p.m. ex-Taipei via Swatow, 4:10 p.m. ex-Amoy via Swatow, 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. ex-Canton 9:25 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m.

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PAL ex-Ban Francisco via Honolulu, Guam, Manila, 12 noon.

HOAC ex-Singapore 4 p.m. ex-Shanghai 5 p.m.

Shipping Arrivals

YESTERDAY

FOOCHOW (H. & S.) British, 1,901 tons, ex-Shanghai, E.G. Thomas, 11:14

SEZCHUEN (H. & S.) British, 1,740 tons, ex-Shanghai, G.R. Tomlin, 11:14

HANYANG (H. & S.) British, 1,851 tons, ex-Shanghai, P.N. Booth, 11:14

TODAY

HUNAN (H. & S.) ex-Taipei, 11:14

SHENGKING (H. & S.) ex-Shanghai, 11:14

FERNHILL (Thornson) ex-Atlantic Coast, 11:14

TOMORROW

BORGHOLT (Wallem) ex-Atlantic Coast, 11:14

ANHUI (H. & S.) ex-Shanghai, 11:14

WING SANG (Jardine) ex-Shanghai, 11:14

ATRUH (H. & S.) ex-U.K., 11:14

WENAR (H. & S.) ex-U.K., 11:14

BENARY (Lloyds) ex-U.K., 11:14

BENLOMOND (Lloyds) ex-U.K., 11:14

GLENNHART (Jardine) ex-U.K., 11:14

WOSANG (Jardine) ex-Shanghai, 11:14

SHIRALA (H. & S.) ex-Shanghai, 11:14

SHIRALA (H. & S.) ex-U.K., 11:14

Shipping Departures

YESTERDAY

NANCHANG (H. & S.) for Singapore, 11:14

TODAY

FOOCHOW (H. & S.) for Kobe, 11:14

HEINRICH JESSEN (H. & S.) for Singapore, 11:14

IVARAN (Wallem) for Atlantic Coast, 11:14

TALAMANA (Wallem) for Pacific Coast, 11:14

PARAMATTA (Wallem) for Pacific Coast, 11:14

BRADSHAW (Wallem) for Pacific Coast, 11:14

SHIRALA (H. & S.) for U.K., 11:14

TREVIANON (H. & S.) for Japan, 11:14

TOMORROW

FERNHILL (Thornson) for Atlantic Coast, 11:14

HANYANG (H. & S.) for U.K., 11:14

SEZCHUEN (H. & S.) for Singapore, 11:14

Vessels in Port

ALDEN (Wallem) Y.M.T.

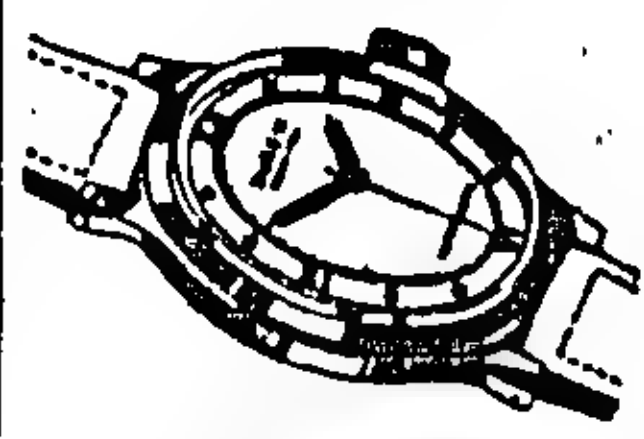
ANAKAN (Wallem) K.D.

APPLEDORE (Wallem) K.D.

CHONG HING (Wallem) K.D.

FOOCHOW (H. & S.) H.H.

FOO YU (Wallem) S



BUREN

THE PERFECT
SWISS WATCH

CRICKET:

ENGLAND SCORE 90 FOR ONE WICKET IN TEST

Durban, December 17.

England had scored 90 runs for one wicket at lunch on the second day of the Test match against South Africa here in reply to South Africa's first innings total of 161.

Len Hutton and Cyril Washbrook gave England a good first innings start with an opening partnership of 84 in reply to South Africa's first innings.

Manchester U. Have Trouble

Manchester, December 16.

The Cup holders, Manchester United, faced with the toughest test of the season so far in their meeting with the League leaders, Derby County, on Saturday, have half their team on the injured list. Six players, Delaney, Morris, Chilton, Rowley, Mitten and McGlen all are doubtful starters.

Another club hard hit by injuries is Hull City, who will travel to Reading for the Second Round re-play without Carter and Eddie Burrows.

In addition, their centre-half, Means, will be absent with a cut head.—Reuter.

Judgment Split By Chief Justice

Judgment for the plaintiff in the sum of \$1,501.20 on the claim and for defendant in the sum of \$449.50 on a counterclaim, was given by Sir Leslie Gibson (Chief Justice), at the Supreme Court yesterday.

The claim and counterclaim arose out of certain repairs effected to Nos. 118-124 Jaffe Road, Hong Kong.

The plaintiff, Tsang Kiu, proprietor of the Kien Ling Construction Company, was represented by the Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almeida, C.A., K.C., instructed by Mr. J. M. d'Almeida Remedios.

Mr. H. G. Sheldon, K.C. and Mr. Charles Leach, instructed by Mr. A. J. A. de Almeida, represented the defendant, Tsai Wai-leung, married woman.

On March 11, 1946 the plaintiff, who is a building contractor, entered into a written contract with the defendant, who is the owner of Nos. 118-124 Jaffe Road, for the repair and reconstruction of those premises which had been damaged during the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong.

The plaintiff claimed \$4,501, this amount being made up of \$3,000 balance of contract price and \$1,501.20 extras, less \$1,411.55 for materials supplied by defendant.

Defendant filed a defence denying liability and counterclaimed \$7,046.20 as liquidated damages.

Gold Reserves Drop In S.A.

Pretoria, December 17.

The Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, Dr. M. H. de Kock, said today that South Africa's gold reserves may drop below the 25 per cent minimum prescribed by law.

This statement added that reserve requirements may have to be suspended. According to a Reserve Bank statement early this month, South Africa's reserves dropped by more than £2,250,000 between November 20 and December 3.

Preliminary estimates of the Union's post-war balance of payments two days ago showed that there was a £10 million monthly deficit with non-sterling areas, representing about £7 million a month, more than the country's gold output.

On December 14, the South African Treasury bought U.S. \$10 million for South African currency from the International Monetary Fund.—Reuter.

TICKET MARKING MACHINE

A ticket marking machine of interest to the hardware trade is one of the latest engineering products on the Australian market.

Made locally, the machine can mark 1,000 boxes of cutlery with three changes of prices, apply the labels to the boxes, and replace the boxes in stock in less than an hour.

The marker is also being used by the motor spare parts trade for the labelling of all spares. It saves storemen and salesmen a day's work in labelling.

ITALIAN BOXER DISQUALIFIED

Liverpool, December 16.

Ludovico Berto, of Italy, was disqualified in the seventh round of a ten round fight at the Liverpool stadium tonight against Rawthorne, official contender for the British welterweight title.

Rawthorne always carried the fight to Berto, a tough hard-hitting boxer, who made many good punches when he rushed the Englishman.

Berto was twice warned by the referee to keep his head up before the fight ended.

Rawthorne, who sustained a cut eye in the eighth round, was a shade ahead on points when Berto was disqualified.—Reuter.

SYRIA CABINET

Damascus, December 16.

Mr. Khalil al-Azm, former Minister of Justice and Economy, succeeded tonight in forming a Syrian Cabinet to replace the Syrian Government which resigned 16 days ago.

The new Cabinet consists of six independent Ministers and two Republicans.—Reuter.

Coolie Woman Changes Places With In Mate

A sexagenarian coolie-

woman, who specialised in smuggling Chinese liquor into the Colony, successfully changed places with another prisoner at the Laichikok Female Prison on April 15, and made \$150 for staying in goal in place of the other woman, Young Tai.

Yu Yuen alias Pang Yee, the 60-year-old woman, was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment on April 9 for possession of dutiable liquor. On the same day, Young Tai was sentenced to two months' hard labour for an offence.

Due for discharge on April 15, Yu allowed Young to assume her identity and obtain her discharge.

On December 14, Yu was arrested by revenue officers in possession of Chinese liquor. When her finger prints were taken, it was found that she was the one who did the extra sentence.

The foregoing was related by Sub-Inspector J. H. Evans when Yu was charged before Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday with aiding and abetting Young Tai to escape from Laichikok goal.

After she was sentenced to three months' hard labour, Revenue Inspector D. H. Kilox preferred the possession of liquor charge against her. She was given a concurrent sentence of a \$35 fine or two weeks' imprisonment.

Took Suitcase Of Another Woman Along

When Lam Hei, a 33-year-

old widow, lost her job as an amah at 53 Cooke Street, third floor, she left the premises at 7 a.m. on December 14 with a suitcase belonging to Wong Yim, a woman who occupied a bed space.

Wong, who had left for work at 6 a.m. that day, found her bag containing a gold ring, a gold bangle, a case of clothing and two women's long gowns, missing when she returned home.

On her making a report to the Hong Kong Police Station, Detective-constable 1217 made inquiries and finally traced the thief, who was suspected to be the third floor of 53 Laichikok Road.

The stolen property was found wrapped in a newspaper. Questioned by the detective, Lam said that she emptied the suitcase up on the roof, wrapped the contents in a newspaper and handed the parcel to her friend on the third floor, saying that it contained washing.

Asked by Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr, before whom she was charged, by Sub-Inspector J. H. Evans yesterday with larceny, what she had to say, Lam replied, "I have returned the property to the complainant."

Magistrate: You did?—Yes. She was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

U.S. PRIVATE HANGED IN JAPAN

Yokohama, December 17.

A former U.S. Army private, Stratman Armistead, aged 35, died today on the gallows of the Eighth Army. The execution took place at dawn today for the hammer murder of four Japanese in October, 1947.

It was the first execution of a condemned member of the occupation forces.

The hanging was conducted privately and without advance publicity. Only necessary military witnesses and prison personnel were present.—United Press.

VILLA WANT CENTRE-HALF

Aldershot, December 16.

Aston Villa, having secured Ivor Powell from Queen's Park Rangers, are already in the market for another player.—Aldershot's six-foot centre-half, Rowland, who was a prisoner of war for four years.

Aldershot signed him on in 1945, after he had served with the Green Howards.

Rowland will probably cost the Villa at least £10,000, for there is keen competition from Cardiff City.—Reuter.

CHINA MAIL

HONG KONG, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1948.

Wildcats To Take On Wahoos In Return Softball Encounter

(By "GRANDSTAND")

Wildcats will tangle with Wahoos in a return encounter to highlight the week-end's ladies twin-bill, while the Senior Loop reach the half-way mark with four tussles, the spotlight being turned on the Madcaps-Canadians scuffle.

The Wahoos will trot out on the field with their backs to the wall and their pennant hopes at stake—the Owls have suffered two losses and another defeat will smother the last remaining ember of hope.

The outcome will depend largely on whether Terry Noronha and her Owls can display their former pennant flash when tight fielding was the key-note.

A repetition of the erratic exhibition at their last outing against the Wahoos they chalked up an all-time record of 22 bingles will prove disastrous.

Terry Noronha and Teresa "Choochi" Baptista will share the pitching assignment with the ever-reliable Patsy Ribeiro behind the bat.

The final infield line-up is still under consideration and it is understood that a re-shuffle of base-guardians will be made.

The chores will, in any case, fall on Helen Soares, Bernice Remedios, Gilly Whinglee, Yolie Franco, Irene Castilho and Theresa Remedios. Half-innings will be selected from Edith Kaxler, Elsie Thompson, Ramona Xavier and "Choochi" Baptista. If the latter is not required on the mound.

Regular Quartette. The Untamed Follies will start Lefty Dolly Brown on the rubber in this south-paw mound article has not yet lost a tilt. Elio "Stone-wall" Babida will call the pitches while the infield will probably be their regular quartette of Marjorie Xavier, Inez Soares, Helen Ribeiro and Peggy Barrett.

It is also understood that Cynthia "Salvor" da Mota, one of the original Wildcat will be on hand as utility member of the squad.

The Pirates should be easy meat for the Canuckettes in this afternoon's clash, in spite of the fact that the Blues have improved.

The Canuckettes meet their last hurdle with a game ahead of their nearest rival when they tangle with Buster Hollands' Merry Madcaps.

The Maple Leaf contingent will start to-morrow's fracas without their regular hot corner guardian George White, as it is understood that White will be out of the line-up for the rest of the season owing to his injury last week when a base-runner collided with him at third base.

Probable substitutes to fill the gap are Luke Bunn and Junior Markar, but this will be at the sacrifice of other departments.

The Canuckettes are strong hitters but weak in the defensive, and it will not take long for Buster Hollands right-hand batters to locate the weaknesses left of the key-stone.

Kassan Nazarin on the rubber for the Canuckettes was disappointing last week in that he only claimed two strike-out victims, and that was by his quick return method. I don't think the Mad-cappers will be fooled this time.

Having watched Nazarin pitch for half the season, I have come to the conclusion that he is a "front-runner", that is he is good when his mates can give him a

hand, but an uphill fight upsells him more than a bit.

Kerry Silva-Netto toting the rubber for the Hollandsmen uses his head in his deliveries but lacks speed. Battery mate will be Sabu Sunny who knows his job well while Sheridan, Romero, Maurice and Licky, and Spicky Gutierrez can do a swell job around the bases if they cut out the grandstand act. The fly-shagging trio of Rene Segulera, Sid Hollands and Bob Remedios are safe men on the field and swing a potent bat.

The scuffle should be a close one and the result will have an important bearing on the current pennant scramble.

It was revealed at a recent Association meeting that Recreio's withdrawal was only verbal and that confirmation in writing has not yet been received.

An ultimatum has, therefore, been despatched to Recreio head-ling of their absence from the quarters requesting an explanation of their absence from the diamond, as well as a Committee ruling that unless they play off their week's fixtures, they shall be considered as having withdrawn officially.

Old-timers will remember the exhibition games that were played at Macao by teams from these shores, and at a post-meeting discussion it has been suggested that a revival of this event be considered. If the venture should materialise and our fair neighbours react favourably, this could be the forerunner of an annual Import-Export Softball caught on in Macao during the war years and there is no reason to assume why it should not be popular again if sufficient encouragement be given.

Week-End Schedule

And Umpires

SENIOR LEAGUE

Sunday — Recreio Football

Ground: 10.30 a.m. VRC

Americans: (Al Winslow, Luis

Roche, Bob Low); noon Saints vs

Chung Hwa; (Charlie Figueiredo,

Igarar Eriksen, Bob Porter).

CBA Ground: noon Filipinos vs

Overseas; (W. Lawson, M. Veerly-

sen, Anatoly); 2 p.m., Madcaps vs

Canuckians; (Doc Molten, Dick

Chung, Fred Diesta).

ADULTS LEAGUE

Saturday — Recreio Football

Ground: 2.30 p.m., Canuckettes vs

Pirates; (Phil Remedios, Robbie

Hill, Ollie Voz).

Sunday — CBA Ground: 3.30

p.m., Wildcats vs Wahoos; (Ton

Robbins, Hill Woo, Junior Mar-

kar).

JUNIOR LEAGUE

Saturday — Recreio Football

Ground: 4.00 p.m., Rangers vs

Braves; (Phil Remedios, Cesar

Xavier, Lionel Segulera).

Sunday — Recreio Football

Ground: 6.00 a.m., Wildcats vs

Mohawks; (Phil Remedios, Bill

Silva, Junior Remedios).

NEW COURSE

2.20 W.H. Holloch v J.M. Wood.

2.24 H.B. Thompson v J.M. Patterson.

2.26 W.A. Hall v J.M. Ten.

2.28 W.A. Hall v J.M. Jackson.

2.30 J.H. Collis v A. Mabb.

2.32 J.H. Collis v J. Dyer.

2.34 J.H. Collis v J.M. Wood.

2.36 H.C. Watson v D. Huns.

2.38 J. Forbes v J.L. MacIntyre.

2.40 A.H. McBride v G.C. Allen.

2.42 F.P. Stewart v W. E. G.

2.44 D.H. Blake v L.D. Pringle.

2.46 N.E. Williams v K. Noble.

2.48 G. Groves v W.H. Patterson.

2.50 F. Brodie v G.F. Ferguson.

Players of the "Over" and "Under" 45s

are requested to note that there are a few

alterations to the list published on

Wednesday.

UMBERTO VISIT

TO CAIRO

Cairo, December 16.

Ex-King Umberto of Italy, who came to Egypt a fortnight ago for the wedding of his niece, Countess Calvi de Bergoglio, left Cairo by air today for Lisbon, where he will be in exile.—Reuter.

SOCCER:

Saints Meet S. China "A" In Match Of The Week

(By "ROVER")

KBGC To Hold Closing Day This Afternoon

The Kowloon Bowling Green

Club will hold its Closing Day this afternoon, when a team representing the President will play a team composed of players chosen by the Vice-President.

Visitors from other Clubs are invited to participate.

The following teams have been selected and play will commence at 2.15 p.m. sharp:

PRESIDENTS V. VICE-PRESIDENTS

J.K. Hayward v K.F. Pope

K.C. Hamilton v L.A. Gutierrez

R.A. Edwards v W.D. Simpson

J. McKelvie v A.A. Atkins

R.H. Phillips v E.W.G. Simmonds

E.J. Sparrow v J. Mould

M. Morrison v O. Downman

U.M. Omar v A.J. Hall

J. Tinsell v T.J. Gossiey

J.J.R. Mitchell v L. Miller

P.C. Clemo v G.C. Norman

L. Rykes v A.M. Omar

K. Abraham v A. (Skip)

J. Crichton v J.H. Durbek

J. Humphrey v J.S. Dinman

A. Jillett v L.H. Whani

N.J. Whelan v J. Kinniburgh

W.G. Frost v S. Holden

W. Willerton v L. Giv

H.H. Strange v S. Pollock

W. Buihl v J. Roberts

A.J.L. Pearson v A. Davidson

G.G. Coombes v W. King Blinn

F. Goodwin v J. Francis

W.H. Bailey v T.F.H. Robinson

H.A. Lammeret v J.L. Gringley

M.Y. Adai v H.J. Wigginton

V. Chittenden v G.E. Thompson

A. Hutton v H.W. Close

R.M. Ramjohn v C. Mottram

H.P. Shelds v T. Lock

A.L.G. Eastman v L. Skilper

(Skip)

SECOND DIVISION

Talkon v Police (P.P. from 25.4.48), Club,

2.30 p.m. Referee: J. J. Day and A. Ribeiro.

South China v Army (P.P. from 10.10.48), Caroline Hill, 4 p.m. Re-

ferree: J. Ward, Linamen L. Davy and Y.T. Leung.

Navy v Army (P.P. from 14.11.48), Navy,

4 p.m. Referee: A.P. Willie, Linamen P.A. Barretto and R.Y. Kowk.

RECREIO DIVISION

Talkon v Police (P.P. from 25.4.48), Club,

2.30 p.m. Referee: J. J. Day and A. Ribeiro.

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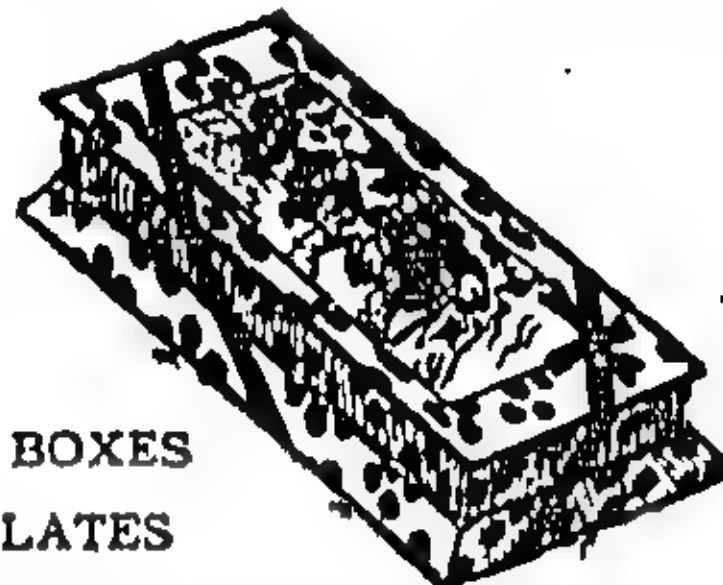
2.30 p.m. Referee: J. J. Day and A. Ribeiro.</

Christmas Supplement

Chun Hing Store

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- NUTS
- FRUITS
- CRACKERS
- XMAS STOCKINGS
- BISCUITS
- XMAS CAKES
- FRUIT CAKES
- PLUM PUDDING



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CHOCOLATES

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MAKE MERRY—AND PRAISE GOD

For many centuries at Queen's College, Oxford, the boar's head has been carried in to the words of an ancient song:
"The boar's head bear I
Bedecked with bays and rose-mary,
And I pray you, my masters, be merry.
Qui estis in convivio
Cuius apert defero,
Reddens laudes Domino."

They were wise in the middle ages. "Be merry and praise God" is the sense of the words. Have they ever been more apt than today?
When, for one thing, has there been better reason for gaiety, on the one day in the year dedicated to gaiety, than now? Not because the social and political landscape is particularly cheerful, but because it is not. Remember the old prints of stage coach-parties stretching their legs by blazing logs while the snow falls fast outside: no doubt the travellers found the fire warmer because the high-road had been so bleak. And Amundson, the Arctic hero, once said that nobody could enjoy a blazing fire as it ought to be enjoyed, unless he had been to the Pole.

So Much Else Is Black

So this year we should be gay at Christmas, just because so much else is black. Even though no boar's head is borne aloft to our table, we should be as merry as the learned revellers who hailed the bay-decked dish in the College Hall centuries before the atom bomb was thought of. For men were meant to be happy, and, however great a mess they, or their rulers, have made of public affairs, they should not cease to be happy in private; and above all on the day sacred to childhood and the home.
But we shall not be happy in the fullest and deepest sense if we forget the last of the three:

And So Contribute To A Happier Christmas And A Happier World

By Lord Elton

Latin lines in the medieval rhyme—"Giving praise to God." For Christmas is a Christian festival, one of the two greatest Christian festivals. The pagans, too, used to feast about Christmas time, celebrating the turning-point of the year when the days begin to lengthen. But Christianity, so to speak, baptised the old pagan festival, transforming it into the Feast of its own Birth. Very naturally and properly the Feast of the Holy Child became in course of time, and secondarily, the great day of the home, dedicated to merriment, and particularly to the merriment of children.

Christmas was thus celebrated at two levels, religious and convivial, but they were intimately intertwined, and each was enriched by the other. When we come to the age of Dickens, we may feel that the convivial has come altogether to overshadow the religious, and that church bells have become a good deal less important than the after-dinner sense of repletion. Nevertheless, the church bells were still there, and Christmas, though it had become grayer, was still a festival of the home, dedicated to family affection. It is only with the coming of the machine age and the melancholy new paganism, bred of it, that we find Christmas descending to a new, low level. Hitherto, where it had ceased to be primarily religious, it had at least remained domestic, an

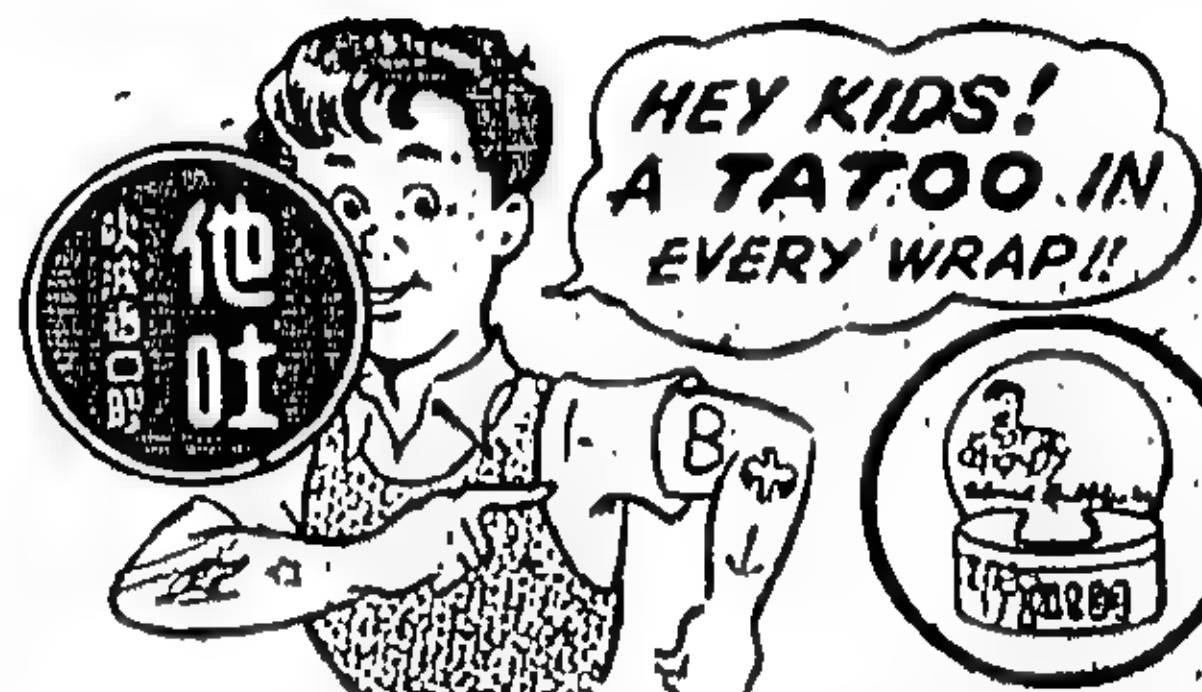
annual glorification of the home — on which Christian civilisation had always been based. But in the twentieth century we encounter increasingly a Christmas which is neither religious nor domestic, but as impersonal as the machine age from which it springs. What could be more characteristic of certain aspects of modern life, and what more melancholy, than the spectacle of a party of adults without a child among them, spending Christmas getting drunk in a hotel?

Why The World Is Gloomy

There are thus three main types of Christmas celebration: the Christmas of church and home, the Christmas of home only, and the Christmas which has forgotten both church and home. What we most need today is to return to the Christmas of the home, which began at the altar and ended at the hearth. For such a return will mean more than a happier Christmas.

We ought to be specially merry this Christmas, I said, just because there is so little cause for merriment in the national and international landscape today. And why does the world make so gloomy a spectacle? Precisely because it has passed through the very same decline which we have traced in the Christmas celebrations, descending from religion and the cult of the home, to paganism, and the worship of vast impersonal forces. When man becomes a mere cog in the machine of state he is not likely to keep Christmas as it should be kept. "I pray you, my masters, be merry... reddens laudes Domino." By both being merry and praising God we shall make our own small contribution not only to a happier Christmas but to a happier world.

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1 Qt. Taylor's London Dry Gin) \$105.-
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1 Ltr. Nolly Prats Vermouth
1 Qt. Cawsey's Lime Juice Cordial
1 Phil Angostura bitters

HAMPER NO. 4

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1 Champagne)
2 Qts. John Haig Gold Label or)
1 "Perfection" Whisky) \$180.-
2 Qts. Taylor's London Dry Gin
1 Qt. Martell's Cordon Blue Liqueur
1 Ltr. Nolly Prats Vermouth
1 Qt. Cawsey's Lime Juice Cordial
1 Phil Angostura bitters

HAMPER NO. 5

- 2 Qts. John Haig or Perfection Whisky)
1 Champagne)
2 Qts. Moet & Chandon "Brut Imperial")
1 "Perfection" Whisky) \$250.-
1 Qt. Martell's Cordon Argent Liqueur
1 Ltr. Nolly Prats Vermouth
1 Qt. Cawsey's Lime Juice Cordial
1 Phil Angostura bitters

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Christmas Tree
in the Sky

It was the fifth of these strange Christmas now since they'd been lost in the African jungle. Christmas season in the jungle always got on Martin's nerves. For how can one have Christmas in a superheated hot-house with horrible sound effects?

The jungle—the pushing, virulent jungle. Martin could tell the romantic novelists plenty about the jungle and its dark, wild, mysterious beauty. Its desire to crowd one out, its stuffy, ferny, hot-water-pipe smells, its weird green light and monotonous noises.

But now it seemed to Martin that there was a jungle in his mind which was even more fearful. Once he had thought that he knew his own mind perfectly, but no longer. His thoughts were too dark, too filled with hate toward a girl whom he had once loved.

It wasn't an ordinary hate he felt. It was the festering sort which held him imprisoned in his own thoughts. Martin was frightened of himself. The worst of it was that she refused to treat him like an enemy. Lucky that there were the other two couples lost in here with him and Spray, so that he need never be alone with her. Lucky that there

was all that work and planning with the rubber trees.

He could tell himself that she was cruel, without a heart, but still there was something of an angel about her. And he had to admit that she was a slender, dancing, beautiful thing with her long bob of honey-coloured hair which was a web to catch the sunlight, her smile which was more gay and flashing than all the diamonds in the world. And that rapturous, innocent light in her blue-grey eyes! If she lost that because of him—

He wished he were out of here. It would be for her sake as well as his. He could forget her then, hard though it might be to keep the memory of her beauty from haunting his heart, mind and senses forever.

Right now Martin was especially sure he could forget her, because he was weary with the work it had taken to snare and then fatten a wild bird, tired from dragging himself over roots and through swamps to find red orchids, lilies and fragrant, along with assorted Spanish mosses which, according to her, looked like Christmas evergreens. And one might as well try to find a Christmas tree in the sky as here in the jungle. What was the use of it, anyway? Christmas was

The Story Of A Strange Xmas

out of their world. None of the six of them would ever know Christmas again. Martin was sure of that.

They should have forgotten Christmas and all those other trimmings of civilisation. Dressing for dinner, and so on. They'd been fools. And they could have had heaven, he and Spray.

Martin clenched his hands as the memory of a long-forgotten capture was suddenly with him. Hard to believe that he could once have been so happy. But she'd turned his happiness and love into misery and hate—fast enough.

That black hate, when it came down upon him, filled him with tension and started streams of perspiration down his forehead, for the air was very close with that particular muggy, oily, clinging heat that is found only in the African jungle.

A leopard screamed close by above the ringing, anvil-like din made by the hornbills, crickets and tree toads. And Martin moved closer to his homemade table which was very poorly lighted by an explorer's lantern tied to a frangipani vine and whose light was shadowed by swarms of black flies, winged ants and rhinoceros beetles.

It was hard to make himself work, and Heaven knew he didn't have much time to spend, anyway, on this musical composition of his which was going so badly. There's been times, at the very first, when it would seem to be almost within his grasp. If he could only hear just once more those woodwinds and violins in his mind, waiting out their song of wonder and delight. He'd heard that imaginary overture of his once. It had been when he first saw Spray. And now he couldn't seem to get it back.

"Damn it all," said Martin, as he made a hopeless blot of the notes he'd just put down. "Oh, Martin, Martin!" A girl's voice was calling him from the clearing where a fire burned in front of their three bungalows. He shuddered. "Damn it, that's Spray. She shouldn't come here away from the others like this!" He clenched his hands.

Light footsteps came running, and then the tiny circle of light made by his work lantern, revealed the vision of the girl who still seemed to be the loveliest creature ever created. It was the girl he hated. Her eyes, in that particular spotlight, were the extraordinary colour of blues by moonlight which no one can describe. Her face had the lovely luminosity of a pearl, framed by plumes of light-brown hair which feathered out over her shoulders in the most entrancing way. And she had her pet ocelot kitten clinging to her shoulder, as was its custom.

"Martin! Martin!"

He scowled. Always, he had to struggle against that indefinable charm she had for him, that feeling of breathless wonder and lightness which came sweeping over him at the sight of her. "No one is supposed to bother me when I'm off by myself working on my music like this." His voice was stiff with formality.

"Oh, come off it, Martin! I've got the biggest news you can possibly imagine."

"Yes?" One couldn't help but feel that infectious enthusiasm of hers. "I suppose that old turkey-bustard bird we caught has laid a setting of eggs. And now he has to have his life spared tomorrow."

"She ignored that," Martin, you know our blacks and their grape-vine telegraph which never misses? Well, they've got it absolutely straight that there's a rescue party coming in here after us. And we can expect them in an hour or so."

"Great guns!" A Christmas rescue for us! The anger and stiffness left his voice. "Spray, it's hard to believe."

"Hard, but wonderful. Oh, it's so wonderful. And you can imagine how excited the others are. Ann and Jo are fit to be tied at the thought of seeing their little house in Mt. Kenya again. And Fiesta is already planning the big church wedding she's going to have. She's sure her chemist-fiance will still be waiting for her. He was so sweet about her coming in the first place."

"Yes," said Martin, "yes." His voice sounded faraway. He was stunned by this news.

"Long. Come up soon's you can," and Spray went running back to the fire.

Martin sat there, silent. So it was going to happen after all. Practically as soon as their plane had crashed, he'd given up any idea of their ever getting out. He remembered his mother's words then, and how she had called him music-mad and swing-crazy for wanting to join the other five young people who'd also won prizes in that radio contest. But to him, it had seemed like a glorious chance at romantic adventure.

"It's our chance to study native African music and its effect on present-day swing," Martin had told his mother. "Swing is important. It's the new music." "But you don't know any of those other young people," she'd written plenty of round-robin letters back and forth. And, after all, as he'd told you, two of those people are married. That makes everything entirely proper. And the pilot's a very fine fellow. After all, Uncle Mark got him for us. Because Uncle Mark had more money than all the rest of the family put together, and since he approved, Martin got his way.

At that, Martin had had the easiest time persuading his family of any of them. Maybe that had been because he had too many fathers and mothers. His family went in for divorce in a big way; so much so that when younger, he would sometimes get his own father and mother confused with all the step-parents and ex-step-parents. He'd had a spoiled, wretched and loveless childhood being pulled and pushed about by too many people.

But, even then, he'd been able to project his mind into the future and think of a time that was coming when he could do as he pleased. And, oddly enough, he would always think of himself as being a hard-working musician who was forever and permanently married to the most beautiful girl in the world. For, even then, music and feminine beauty were the only two things which meant anything to him.

Perhaps every boy has a definite picture of the girl he wants to fall in love with. But it seems strange and wonderful to Martin, when he first saw Spray, that she should have been the girl of those long, golden boyhood dreams. He'd felt that since he'd already had her created in his mind, she was his. He'd thought, somehow, that she must know too—that it was something between them which didn't have to be put into words. But now he knew that she hadn't known, also, that she never would and never could know.

He'd never forget, as long as he lived, the joy of having Spray struggle against his arms with that look of anger and loathing in her eyes. That was when his love became hate—an everlasting hate.

"I think it's all this feud between you and Spray which has put the idea into you," Rod observed once. "You didn't amount to much when you came in here. Anyone could see that you were one of those mamma's boys."

"Why, thanks, pal," said Martin.

"But, man, you're as strong as an ox now. You don't look like any fly-fingered musician. Those time-honoured work did that. You've always been trying to show Spray something or other. You really owe the girl a debt of thanks."

"Like the devil I do," had been Martin's answer. He hoped none of them suspected what Spray had done to him. Only a shrewd devil could wound another human being as far as the thoughts of Ann, Jo, Fiesta and Rod went, he and Spray were contending with each other to be big boss of the rubber plantation. "If you could be king and queen and rule together, I would be a lot easier on all of us," said Jo one day. "You make us work

BY
PAULINE
PARSONS

too hard with that rubber, especially since we all know it can't come to anything."

When he'd been starting off on the trip, his uncle Mark, who was the president of the Great Anglo-American Rubber Co., had given him hundreds of this rubber tree shoots.

"Rubber trees grow from seeds on our East Indies concessions. But I'd like to know what these seedlings would do in the African jungle. So, Martin, if you can take a little time from your musical studies, I'd appreciate a report of your findings. Does seem as if one or two of them should take hold down there. You can tell in a month or so whether or not any of them are prospering."

Uncle Mark would be surprised if he could know that every last one of those shoots had grown like a weed. In fact, their growth in this soil had been so luxuriant and rapid that some of the trees were already being tapped twice a day for their milky latex.

And the savage blacks were easily tamed to be labourers on the rapidly growing plantation. The question of wages was a simple one. Packs of needles, hatchets, mirrors, all threw them into ecstasies. When they went back to the jungle and found it over their wilder brothers they, too, would come begging to be taken on.

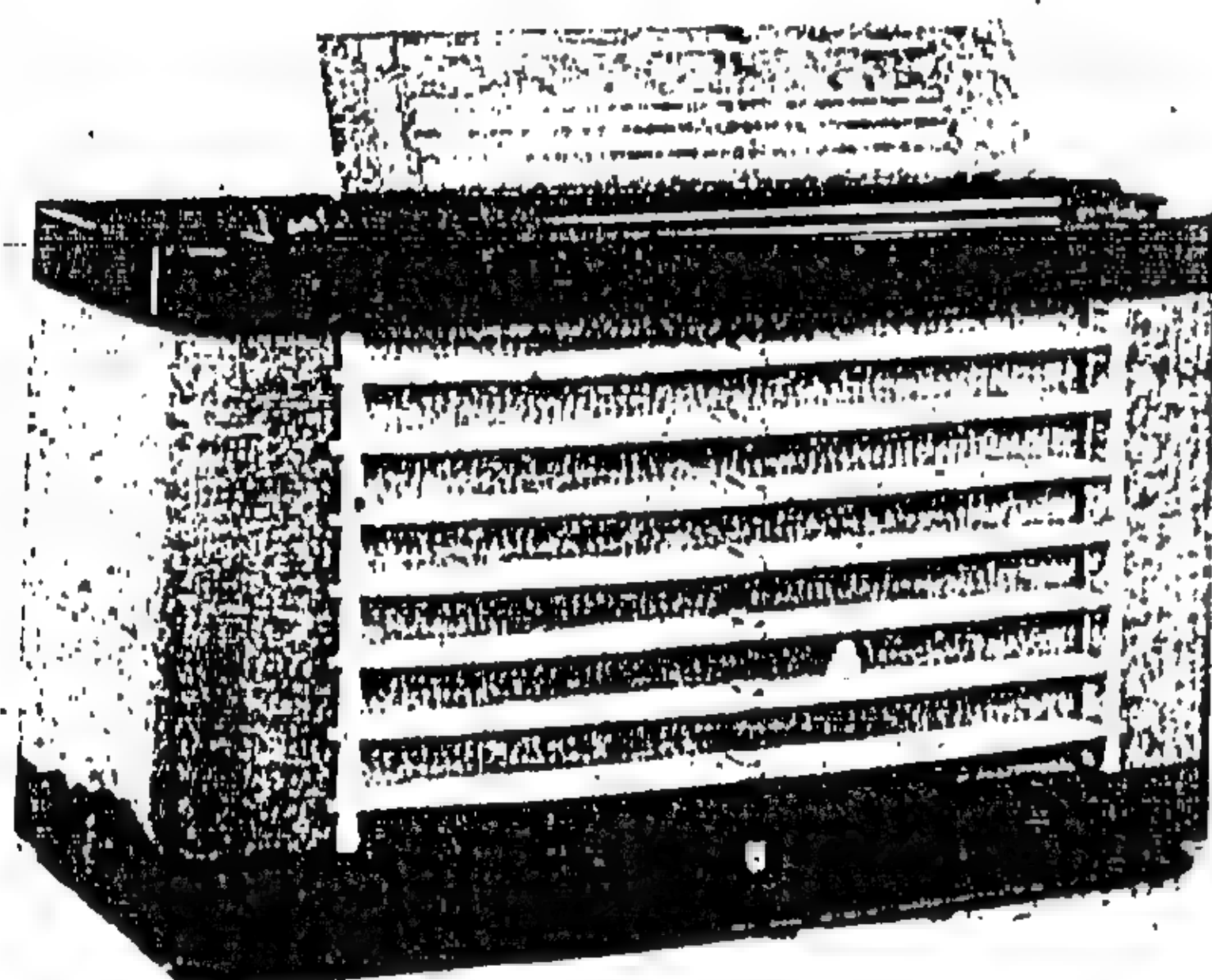
The rubber shoots, as it turned out, were only a starter. Now they had needed brains full of black, crude rubber which the natives had gathered and cured for them. And there was also quite a stand of young trees which were being cultivated from wild rubber seed. The rubber plantation might only be a monument to the hate he had for Spray, but it was a big one.

Even while he was closing up the fine, Florence leather covers of his music manuscript book which were now green and soggy from jungle rot and mold; he was suddenly overcome by a wretched feeling of futility. He and Spray had been like gods to these natives. Between them, they had molded them over from savage beings into men with surprising qualities of stamina, fitness and devotion.

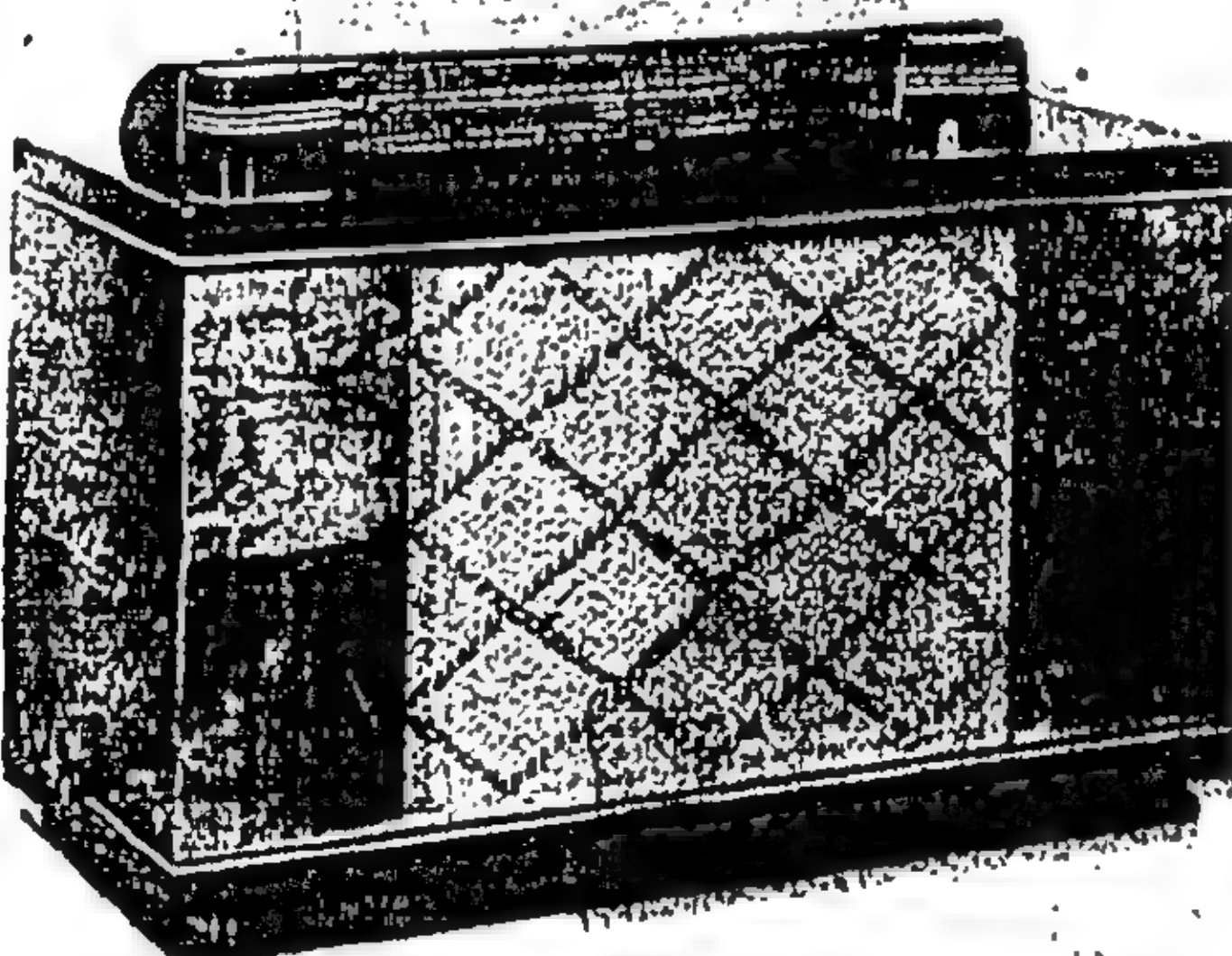
"We were the king and the queen," he whispered softly. And once he and Spray and the others were gone, the blacks, like the rubber trees, would be quickly absorbed and smothered by the jungle. Hard to know that the work of their hearts and hands would have to go for nothing. They really had done all that together, he and she.

(Continued On Page 13)

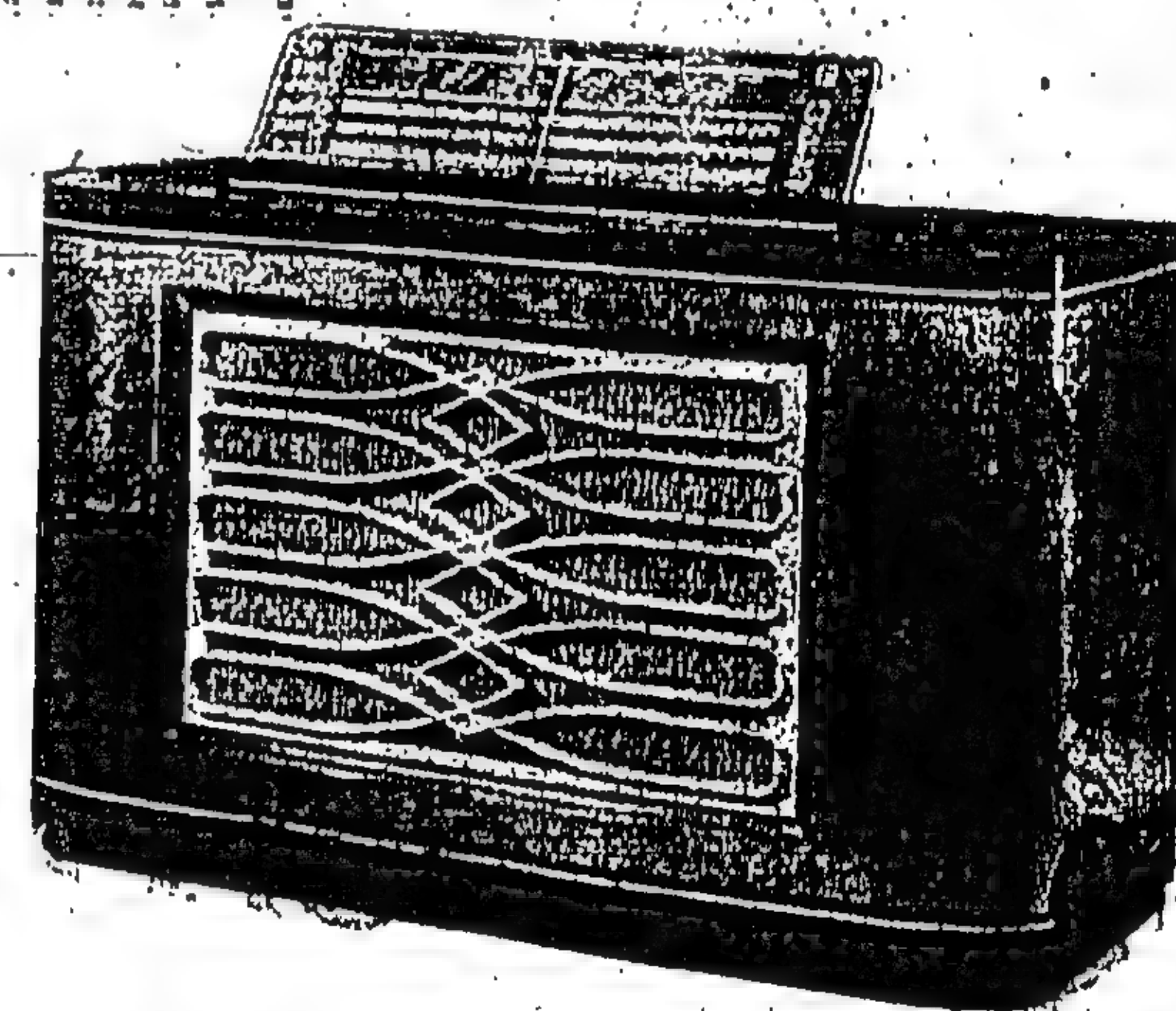
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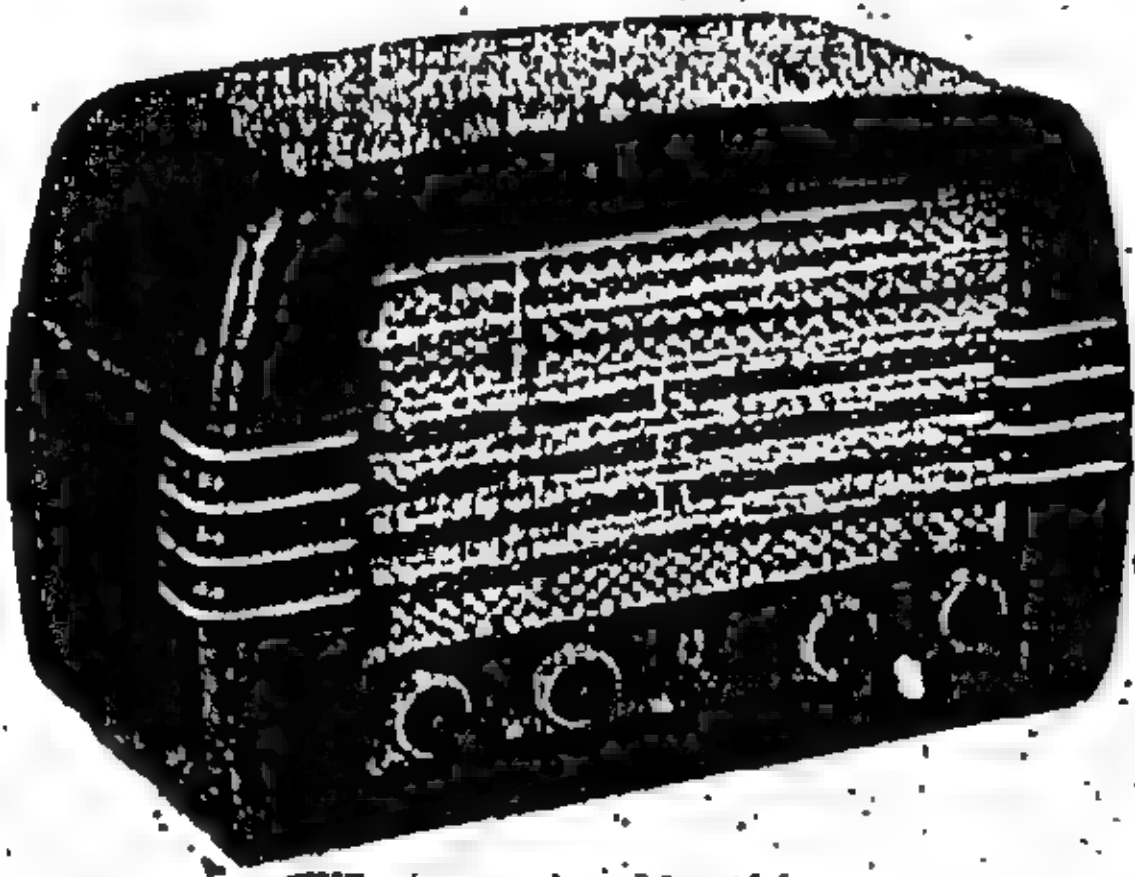
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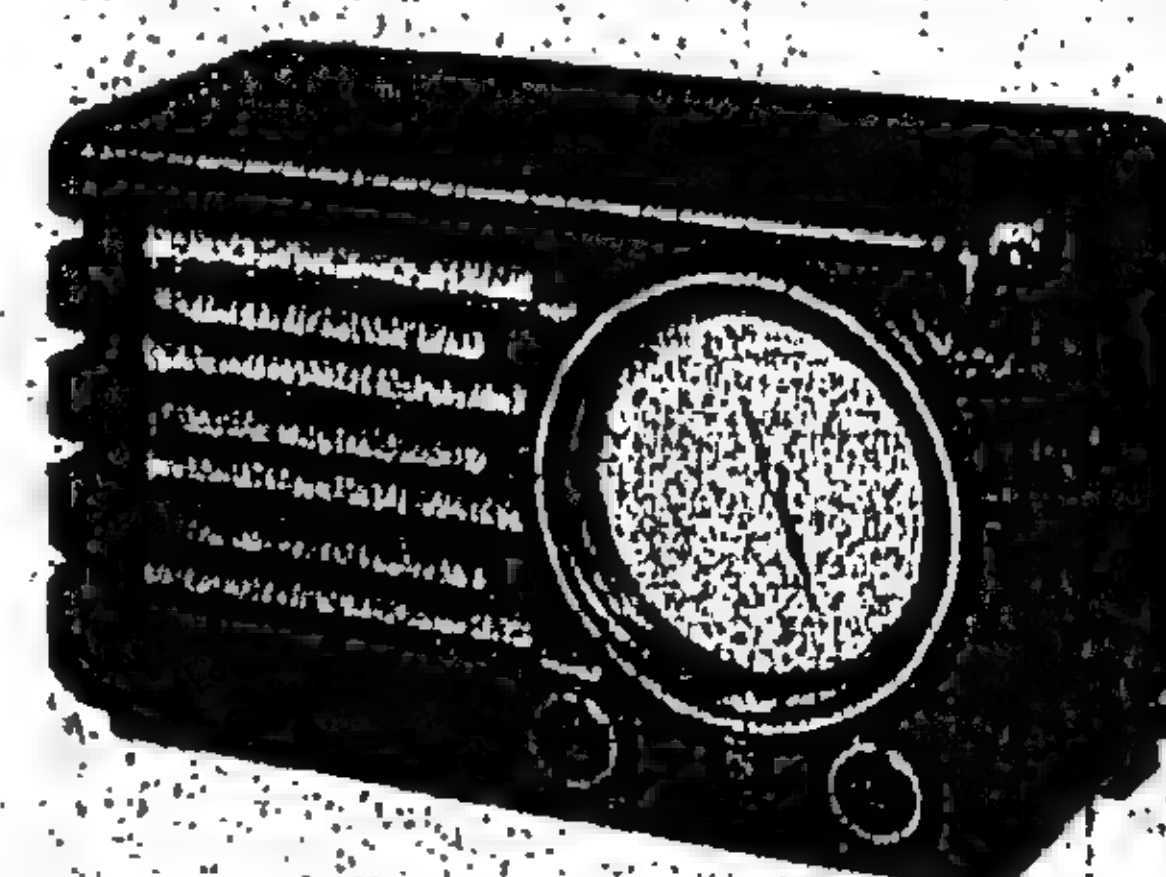
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The B.B.C. Christmas Programmes

The King's Christmas Broadcast

As in previous years, H.M. the King will speak to his peoples in all parts of the world on Christmas Day. It is expected that he will be speaking from Sandringham, and his Christmas message will be carried in the B.B.C.'s Home and Overseas Services.

Preceding and leading up to the King's broadcast will be a round-the-world radio link-up of messages of "good tidings to all men of goodwill," of which the theme is expressed by its title "Good Neighbours." For sixty minutes listeners will hear the ordinary friendly voices of simple people speaking from their homes to similar people in their homes across the ocean and frontiers.

How the people who will take part in this round-the-world broadcast were chosen is explained by Laurence Gilliam, joint producer of the programme. "The search, in all parts of the world, was for people, especially young people, who are actively engaged in vital work of reconstruction, of mutual help, of international understanding; people who are working for better standards of health and food, for a freer passage of ideas across the frontiers. In Britain, we searched for the right people to tell the world this Christmas that the old country is still young in mind and spirit, overhauling her moral resources as well as her machines, alive and awake to her destiny in the new Commonwealth that is taking shape, as much as in the new union of Western Europe."

The broadcast will range from Great Britain to other countries of suffering Europe, and onwards to the Commonwealth, where, among other calls, it is hoped to

make contact with the Canadian Arctic and with a meteorological survey expedition in the Antarctic, and it is hoped to hear how Christmas is being spent with the British pioneers of the East African ground-nuts scheme. Robert Donat will be the narrator of "Good Neighbours" which will be jointly produced by Laurence Gilliam and Leonard Cottrell. Music will be played by the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Walter Goehr.

Carols And Bells

Carols play an essential part in the traditional English Christmas, and so, of course, listeners to the B.B.C. this Christmas will be able to hear some programmes of English carol-singing at its best. From the bomb-wrecked ruins of the ancient Temple Church, London, the famous Temple Choir will be heard singing carols as they have done at Christmas for many years past. Two other programmes of carols which should not be missed will come from royal St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and beautiful King's College Chapel, Cambridge. Fantasia on Christmas Carols, by the grand old man of English music, Ralph Vaughan Williams, O.M., will be sung by the combined choir of Dame Alice School and the Loughton School for Girls.

A programme which British people overseas especially will enjoy will be one of the Christmas bells ringing out over the countryside and towns of Britain, coming from such widely separated places as the church of Great St. Mary's in Cambridge, Dunfermline Abbey in Scotland, Kentworth church in the heart of England, St. Nicholas, Carrickfergus (the oldest church in Northern Ireland) and the parish church of the village of Pucklechurch in Gloucestershire.

Christmas Services

On Thursday the Archbishop of Canterbury will be broadcasting a special Christmas message in the programme for workers in the mission field, "Work and Worship." This is a programme in which he has always shown great interest, and he himself conducted the first service in the programme when it was broadcast in July, 1940.

On Christmas Day the religious service will be broadcast from St. John the Baptist Church, Greenhill, Harrow, and will be conducted by the Rev. Joan de Blank. "Time for Worship" on Christmas Day will be

broadcast from the famous London church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields and will be conducted by the Rev. W. D. Kennedy-Bell.

"Christmas Half-Hour" on Saturday will consist of carols and hymns from Forster Green Hospital, near Belfast, led by the choir of Saint Bartholomew's Church, Belfast.

A "Christmas Eve Epilogue" will be read by Alan Whentley on Friday and a Christmas hymn will be sung by the BBC Singers.

The Christmas Child

"The Christmas Child," produced by D. G. Bridson, is a modern nativity play, and tells the story of the birth of "my child into the world of today. Its characters are the men and women of our time, whose hopes and fears still follow the age-old patterns of human life. It is a play with a message, but the message—like that of the first Christmas story—is a message of hope.

The story is illustrated by some of the lesser-known carols in which the story of Christmas was first celebrated in Britain. These carols, chosen by A. L. Lloyd and arranged by Mervyn Seiber, are among the loveliest melodies which have come down to us from an earlier age.

Music

Broadcast music during Christmas week includes Handel's "Messiah," which will be performed and sung by the BBC oratorio choir. The Choral Society conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent. The soloists will be Isobel Hughes, Gladys Ripley, Eric Greene, and Norman Walker.

"Soldiers of the King's" on Christmas Day, is a programme of the music of the British Brigade of Guards, with Dennis Noble, baritone, as soloist. Another music programme on the same day is called "Music Round Britain," a programme of characteristic contributions from England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Laughters And Games

Radio parties at Christmas time include one given by Gracie Fields, another by Sandy Macpherson and a Gert and Daisy's Christmas Working Party.

"Our Gracie" is having a real family "do," with Mrs. Stanfield, her mother, Tommy Fields, her brother, Cynthia Rawson, Tommy's wife, Teddie Holmes and his piano, and Robert Fumerton and his Orchestra.

Radio Round The World

Sandy Macpherson, whose friendly voice as he introduces his programmes at the theatre organ is well known to radio listeners throughout the world, known artists at his Christmas treat, in "Christmas at Sandy's." Gert and Daisy's Christmas Party comes from the King's Theatre, Hammer-smith. The famous child impersonator, Harry Hensley, will be a guest.

Other star variety programmes this week and next, full of the Christmas spirit, will be Wilfred Pickles' "Have a Go" quiz show coming from a gathering of old-age pensioners at Morecambe and Haysham; Christmas editions of "ITMA," "Much-Binding-in-the-Moon," "Waterlogged Spa," and the hundredth performance of the Kentucky Minstrels. In addition, there will be an Arthur Askey programme; Basil Radford and Naughton Wayne in "The Curse of the Blacklecks"; witty Joyce Grenfell in an intimate interlude with Viola Tinnard at the piano; the George Melachrino Orchestra with Olga Gwynne; Harry Dawson, and Jan Mazurka in a programme of Christmas "Musical Memories," "Christmas Bandstand," Bertie Mills' Circus; Two-Way Family Favourites; "Music from the Movies"; and a Christmas Variety Bandbox.

Christmas Talks

A Christmas message will be broadcast by the Rt. Rev. J. W. C. Wood, D.D., Bishop of London. Other reasonable talks include "Life in Britain" by Howard Marshall, and "The Spirit of Christmas" in which Algernon Blackwood will present a picture of Christmas as shown in the works of the English writers George Eliot and Charles Dickens.

A Lei Of Gardenias

Hang a lei of gardenias round your neck
And dance the night away.
It may help some other sorrowing one
If you seem gay.
Sing out the words of the newest song
And smile in your escort's eyes.
It may lighten someone's skies of grey
If you climb blue skies
Only the brave can play the fool
And laugh to hide despair—
Hang a lei of gardenias round your neck
And pin one in your hair!
MARY CAROLYN DAVIES.

Customs Older Than History

By Freda A. Whittaker

There are many attractive customs and tales connected with Christmas, and none more delightful than those directly connected with the Christ Child, whose mystical presence was believed to take all power from evil spirits. That is why ghosts and the like, not to be mentioned at other times of the year, for fear they made an appearance, could be talked about with impunity at Christmas. So we have our ghost stories, which we still consider fitting to the Christmas season.

The idea of reconstructing the manger scene came from St. Francis, who, in 1224, set up a tableau of the Nativity in a village church in Italy. The Holy Family were represented by real persons, and an ox and an ass were tethered near by. St. Francis preached on the Praesepe (the Christmas Crib) and ever since the Roman Catholic churches the world over have included the Praesepe in their Christmas celebrations. Realistic and lovely manger scenes are set up in the churches, and in some parts of Italy, children make a Nativity tableau in their own homes.

Cribble making is another old and charming custom that originated in fourteenth-century Germany. The Christmas Crib was turned into a cradle that could be rocked by the priests, while the choir and congregation sang and danced round, showing their joy at the birth of the Christ Child. From the churches, the custom spread also to ordinary houses.

Offering hospitality to the Holy Child is an old custom of various countries. In Poland, on Christmas Eve, when feasting begins at the appearance of the first star, a vacant chair is left for the Christ Child. In Greece, after supper on Christmas Eve, the table is left untouched, in the hope Christ may come and eat during the night. Very similar is a one-time Welsh custom of unbolting all outside doors on Christmas Eve, in case the Holy Family want to come in.

The tradition of the yule log is one that is old and dies hard—but the yule log of to-day is a poor apology for the great tree blocks that once filled capacious fireplaces.

The burning of a Christmas log is not confined to England. It has been a custom from time immemorial, all over the world, and has its origin in the fire festivals of pagan days. In part

of the Elfol mountains the Christbrand was burnt on Christmas Eve, and the charred remains taken on twelfth night and put in the corn bin to keep the mice away. There was a fairly general belief that lightning would never strike a house where a piece of the yule log had been kept. If the fragment were put on the fire whenever a storm broke,

In Belgium tharred remains of the log were pounded and mixed with water, and this was believed to cure consumption. Switzerland calls the yule log Bucho de Noel. In Provence they named it Trefoir, and the log was blessed by the youngest in the house, who poured a glass of wine over it. Other beliefs regarding the magical properties of the charred wood were that it cured toothache and swollen glands, and prevented chilblains on the heels. Log ashes strewn on the fields was said to save the wheat from mildew.

From the Vosges came a lovely custom. The galeuche de Noel was put on the fire on Christmas Eve, and the same night all the locks and hinges were greased round the house, so no harsh noises should break the sleep of the Infant Jesus. It was believed in the Ardennes that the Virgin in saupapeupé apron piqué put it was burned.

In England, people believed that no fiend could do harm as long as each year's yule log was lit with a fragment of the previous year's. West Shropshire, until 1830, kept up a custom of lighting and burning a yule log during the twelve days of Christmas, and during that time no light might be struck or borrowed. Not only the log, but candles, too, were part of the Christmas illumination, and it was considered lucky to keep a piece of last year's candle.

In Dalmatian young girls decorated the yule log with red silk, flowers, gold wire, laurel leaves, and ribbons. In Serbia, it was the custom to throw a handful of wheat over the fire chosen for cutting. Then at dawn on December 24, a short prayer was said, and the tree felled, so that it would drop towards the east at the moment the sun tipped the eastern horizon.

Children were not especially considered in medieval days. But to-day we regard Christmas primarily as a children's festival, coupling with it Santa Claus, panloines, elfrics, the Christmas tree, and present giving.

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For the dog, and throughout
the house
A festive air, red candles,
An evergreen spray at the
door.
The tree and its gifts, and
clearly
And sweet in the heart, o'er
The song of the Saviour's coming.
And there in the busy days
And nights, to tell you, my dear
one
I love you, in jodeler way
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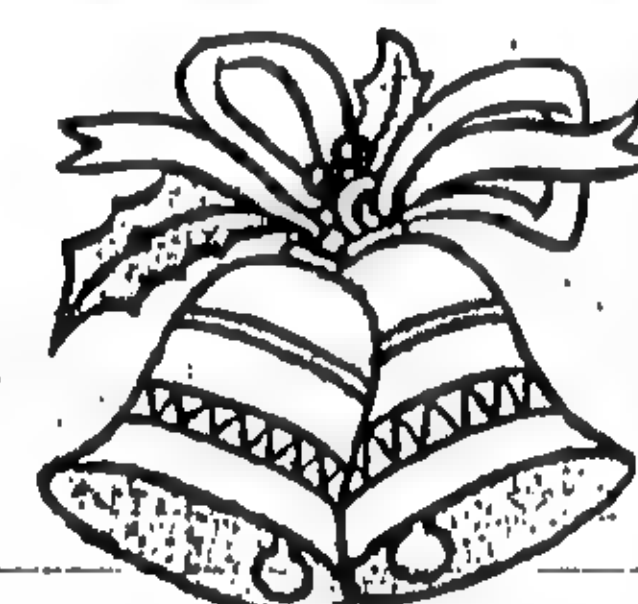
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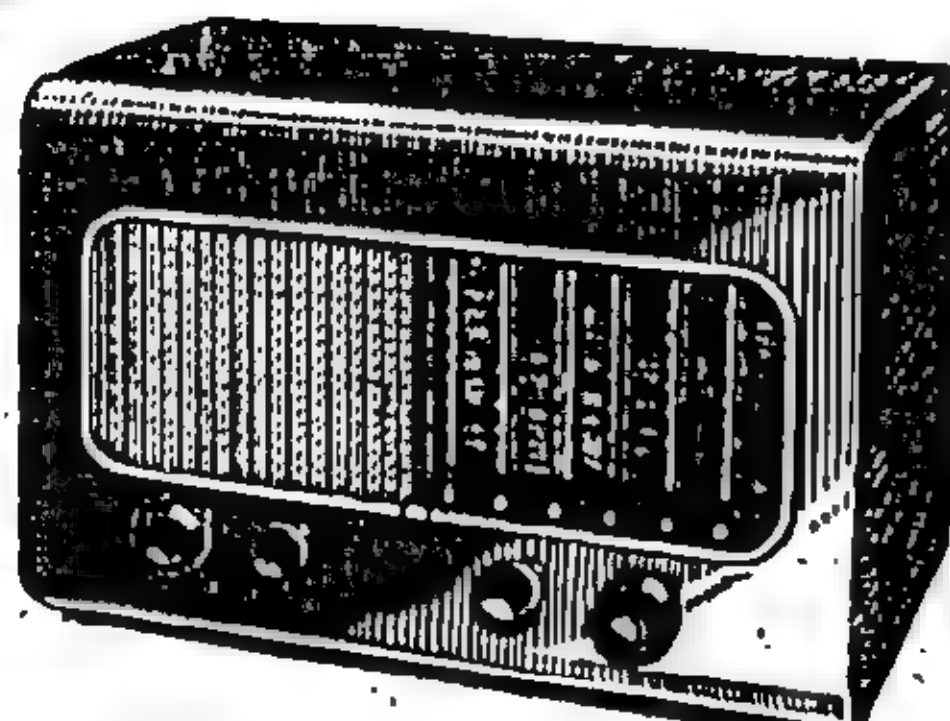
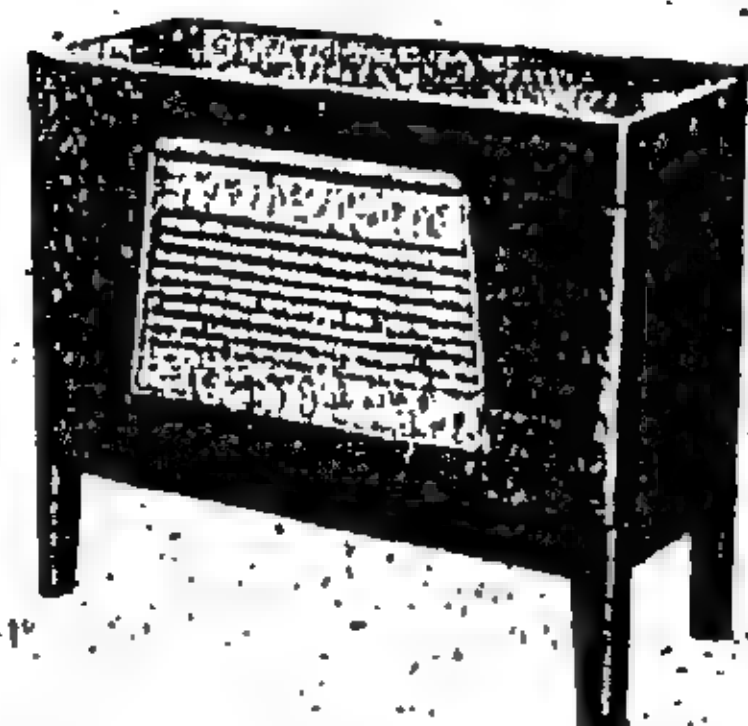
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SHOWROOMS**Christmas Tree - WITH LOVE** By Blake Reed

Shea Hennessy's gleaming dark eyes regarded the tree rebelliously. Vandy knew what he was thinking. Not that it lit up the tired-looking hotel room, made it look more homely—Oh, no! He was thinking that the five dollars Vandy had spent to trim it, placed on that long shot's nose in the fifth race at Millmah, would have netted them one hundred dollars, and that they could have had Shea's idea of a real Christmas—champagne, delicatessen turkey and a crowd of his noisy elbow-bending, song-writing friends.

No use for Vandy to tell Shea that her idea of Christmas and what it stood for was different. There would only be that bored why-don't-you-grow-up look, and a monologue such as, "You knew all about me when you married me. I didn't pull a Daniel Boone on you, did I? Wisconsin—Broadway wisecracks. He's a Vandy hater them all now. Marrying Shea had changed her somehow, made her want to be a real old-fashioned wife."

It's the mother instinct in you, Shea had taunted. "Look, Vandy, don't start mothering me. I'm not the type. Look, I'll prove it." He'd kiss her then, and Vandy would remember why she loved him so—why, no matter how disillusioned she became about the sort of life that they'd drifted into, she'd stick because she couldn't live without this tall, straight, blond, dynamic, impossible man.

Horses! The very word made Vandy see red now. At home on the farm, she'd loved them all. They were her favorite animals, in fact. But Shea and his crowd had changed them into creatures that stole into her room in the dead of the night and took the lunch money right out of her purse. Whatever happened to Shea's idea of writing another hit song, anyway? Right this minute he was humming a strain he'd picked out on his guitar. It was catchy, and it worked on, could be developed, but just about the time he'd get engrossed, someone would be sure to call to give him a red-hot tip, and the song would be forgotten.

Vandy smuggled around in Shea's lap until she got comfortable, without any help from him. He had one of his "silent mads" on.

"It's a lovely tree," Vandy sighed. "As home as always had one. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a tree," Shea said.

"Oh, yes," Shea agreed in that half-busy, humorous voice that Vandy adored. "I know that routine backward, but we could still have had the tree and a few presents to put under it and a big blow-out if you hadn't been such a sudden, righteous drip."

Vandy sat up straight, her lovely blue-green eyes adoring the tree. "The horse could have lost, too, and we wouldn't even have had the tree." She couldn't very well add, "How do you know where you'll be this time next year? This Christmas you are here with me. We'll be all alone, too, because your gang won't come around unless there is a bottle and some food."

Shea's mind was running in the same groove, too. He stood up, dropped her nose too gently on her feet, then looked down at her, annoyance flaring in his dark eyes.

"How do I know where I'll be this time next year? I'll be in a uniform in three weeks. Why shouldn't we have a damned good blow-out that will last right into New Year's Day? We will, too," he insisted stubbornly.

"With what, may I ask?" Vandy asked lightly. She raised her left hand to smooth back a lock of hair that Shea pulled

tertia cotta. Her engagement ring, a small square, blue-white stone bought with part of the proceeds of Shea's one hit tune, seemed to wink an idea at him. He stared at it. Vandy, sensing what was in his mind, quickly put her hand behind her in a childish gesture.

"Oh, no, you don't," Shea Hennessy snapped. "You pawned your watch and never got it back, so just don't give me that line. It's only for a few days—I'll get it right back for you."

"I will, too," Shea promised edgily. "Morgan Vail offered me fifty bucks for that patriotic song little of mine before he went to Hollywood and I turned him down because I wanted to write a tune for it. He'll be back next week. If you'll let me borrow fifty dollars on the ring, I'll let him have the title the minute he gets back. It's a matter of a few days, that's all."

"No," Vandy insisted. "I won't do it, Shea. I can't. It's my engagement ring. It's the sentiment."

Shea glared at her. "You've still got me to remind you that we're married," he said. Vandy shook her head negatively, and Shea turned. "Of all the stubborn brats! What gives with women once they get a man hooked? Before marriage it's 'yes, darling—anything you say.' Afterward, everything is 'no.'"

"Not everything," Shea Vandy reminded him softly. "I'm only trying to be a good wife to you."

Shea pulled her into his arms roughly. "I don't want a good wife. I want back the gal I fell in love with, the gal who didn't have a lot of ideals that got tangled up with any good times we might have."

"But life can't be all good times," Vandy wailed. "You have to work—you have to plan ahead a little."

Shea's dark eyes widened threateningly. He ran long, slender fingers through his unruly hair. "Well, I do work, the only kind I know—song-writing. But you can't pick tunes out of the air. You know that. You've got to have an inspiration."

"Why don't you write a song entitled, 'My Sweetheart Left Me At The Post With My Horse'?"

Shea grinned. As mad as he might be, his sense of humor always triumphed.

"Do you think that's bad?" he demanded. "Tell you what I'll do. I'll bet you a new hat write a song around that title—and you know me when I get an idea. I'll go to work on it tomorrow."

"Why not today?" Vandy insisted. "Maybe I can help you." Shea's eyes shot into the air in a gesture of being held up. "Look, woman, it's Christmas Eve. I haven't even had one little drink today I always celebrate on Christmas Eve—always. Can't you remember last year and the year before? I was in the money. We made merry all over Manhattan. His voice dropped to the patient exasperation one uses with a child. "Tonight I'm broke—but flat. You took our last dollar to buy that spoiled little horse. Is it fair? Don't you think you could be sporting enough to forget sentiment for a breath, at least?"

Vandy shook her head. "Not my ring, Shea. Look, I've got a bottle of wine I bought on sale two months ago. I've been saving it for Christmas. I've got a chicken and all the fixings coming from the delicatessen at six thirty. I charged it. We'll have a party by ourselves. Shea. Then, afterward, maybe the wine will give you inspiration—maybe you can start on the song."

The phone rang—and Shea

You remembered so many of the lyrics of the oldies, everyone thought you were Joe Miller's daughter."

Vandy smiled wanly. She knew what Shea was building up to, but a stubborn streak a mile wide took possession of her. She was going to have this Christmas Eve alone with him, or else!

It was "or else." After a quarrel that was so bitter, it frightened Vandy, Shea banged out of the room saying, "O.K., girl, be stubborn, but I'm going over and have one drink with them, at least. I'll be back in about an hour."

He didn't kiss her good-by. He didn't come back in an hour. Vandy spread the festive tablecloth with the Santa Claus around the edge on the rickety table. She ordered cracked ice, then put the bottle of wine in the pitcher to cool. When the stuff came from the delicatessen, she spread that out, too, then sat down to watch it dry out.

At twelve sharp, the phone rang and Vandy rushed to answer it. It was Shea asking her to relent and meet him at Broom's, she guessed she would. She certainly wasn't getting alone, staring at this tree she had wanted so badly. One of the strings of lights had burned out. The tree gleamed lopsidedly at her, as if to say, "Well, I'm doing my best to cheer you up."

When she said "hello" into the mouthpiece, her voice was quavery, and her brother Jack boomed back at her. "Hello, kitten, why so sad? Gotta keep your spirits up. You know, this time next year we'll be celebrating victory, I'll bet. Now, look, I'm driving down for you on New Year's Day. Tell that husband of yours not to worry so much—we'll take good care of you while he's away."

"But why New Year's Day?" Vandy asked feebly.

"Well, Shea wrote me that's the day he leaves for camp. He said he didn't want you hanging around New York after he leaves."

Vandy felt her knees go spongy. Shea had said in three weeks, and Jack's voice came to her through a blur of ringers and an choked throat.

"And don't worry about money, Van. If you're in hook at the hotel, I'll take care of it when I get there. I haven't forgotten Shea's a good guy with it when he has it. Wait a minute—morn wants to wish you a Merry Christmas." His voice lowered. "She's been crying a little because you're not here. You know the way she always is at Christmas."

"Yes, I know," Vandy said faintly, and by a superhuman effort, she managed to keep the tears out of her voice while she talked to her mother.

Afterward, she sat down and cried brokenly. Shea, the unpredictable, who tried to make a

living, betting on horses instead of using his talents, who wanted to be one of the Broadway gang, but wanted his wife far away from it when he wasn't around. He would pawn her engagement ring to throw a party, but was too chicken-hearted to tell her that he was leaving for camp in one week. What a study in contradictions!

"That's why I'll always love him," Vandy wailed. "Just when I might successfully hate him, he does something to toss me right back into love with him again. I'll dress—I can still make an appearance in my black Persian-trimmed broadcloth suit. I'll walk into Broom's and join the party. For one whole week I'll do anything and everything he asks me to. I won't let anything spoil this last week."

Shea came in while she was dressing. He was very light. He had flowers for her—violets. The box was pushed in as if someone had sat on it. He looked at the haggard-looking table and smiled sheepishly.

"I'm a heel," he said, "a no-good heel. Why don't you leave me, Vandy?"

"Because you're my heel and I'm stuck with you, I guess," Vandy answered brightly. Her voice insisted on trying out all the notes in the scale. They sat together in the one big armchair and ate the dried-up chicken, drank the warm wine.

"It's much better warm—more potent," Vandy insisted, and Shea looked at her adoringly.

"I don't want to drink," he said. "I want to love you, Vandy, for a whole week."

He stopped short as if he'd made a bad slip, and Vandy put her arms around his neck.

"I know, Shea, you're leaving New Year's Day. Jack called while you were out."

"He would," Shea blurted. "Well, you weren't going to run out on me without a word, were you?" Vandy demanded.

"No, but I didn't want you to know until the last minute."

"I won't weep," Vandy promised. "We'll have a week together for the book. I won't say 'no' to you once all week—I swear it."

Shea grinned. "O.K., sweet. I'll take you up on that."

The ringing of the phone awakened Vandy the next day. It was afternoon. Shea still slept blissfully. He looked so peacefully and boyish, asleep.

It was Jimmy Broom on the phone. "Hi-ya, Vandy. What happened to you two, anyway, last night? Shea said he was going home to bring you back to the party. We did O.K. for ourselves. Broke up at seven this morning."

"I didn't feel like going out last night," Vandy said, matter-of-factly.

(Continued On Page 10)

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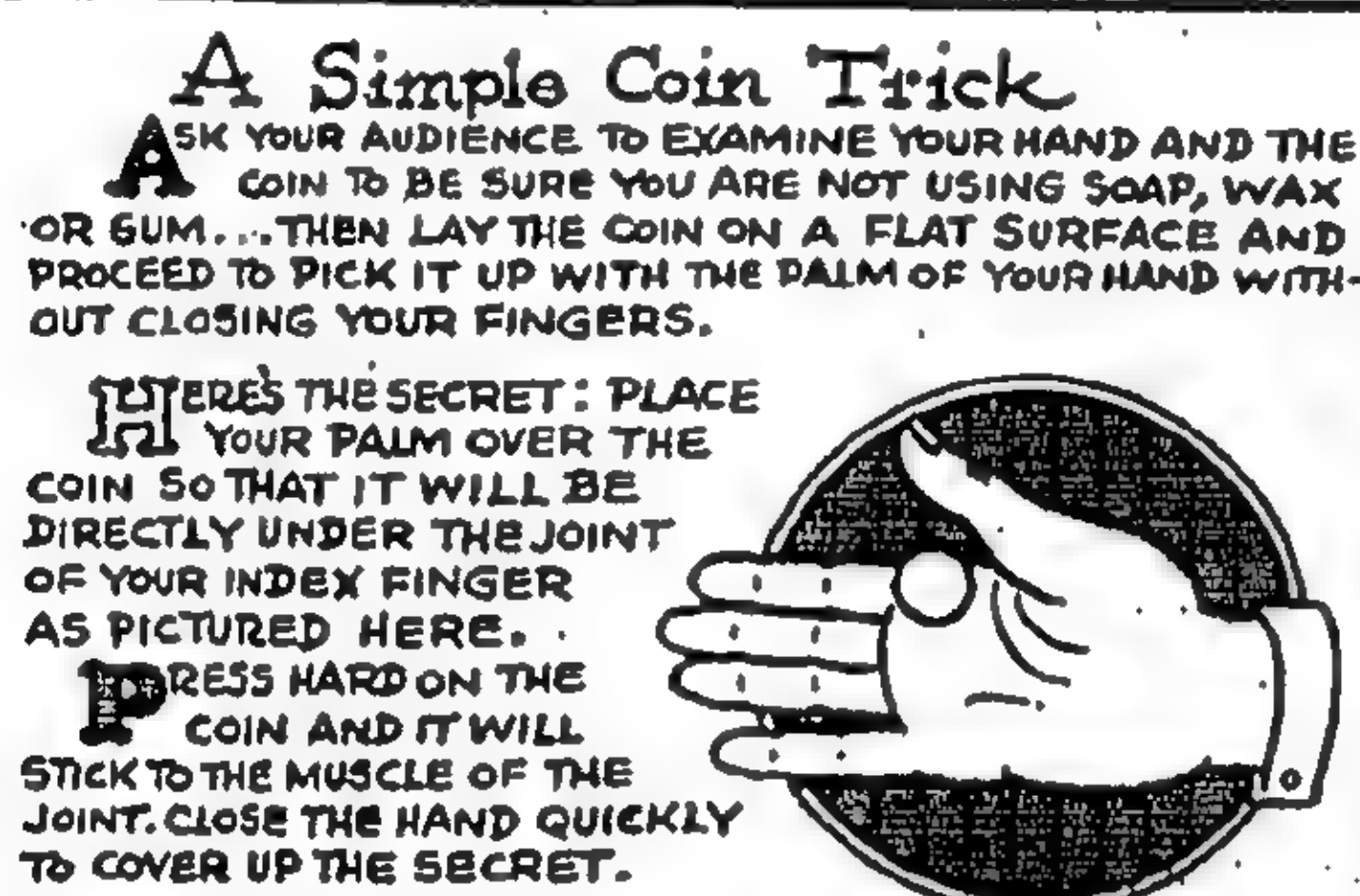
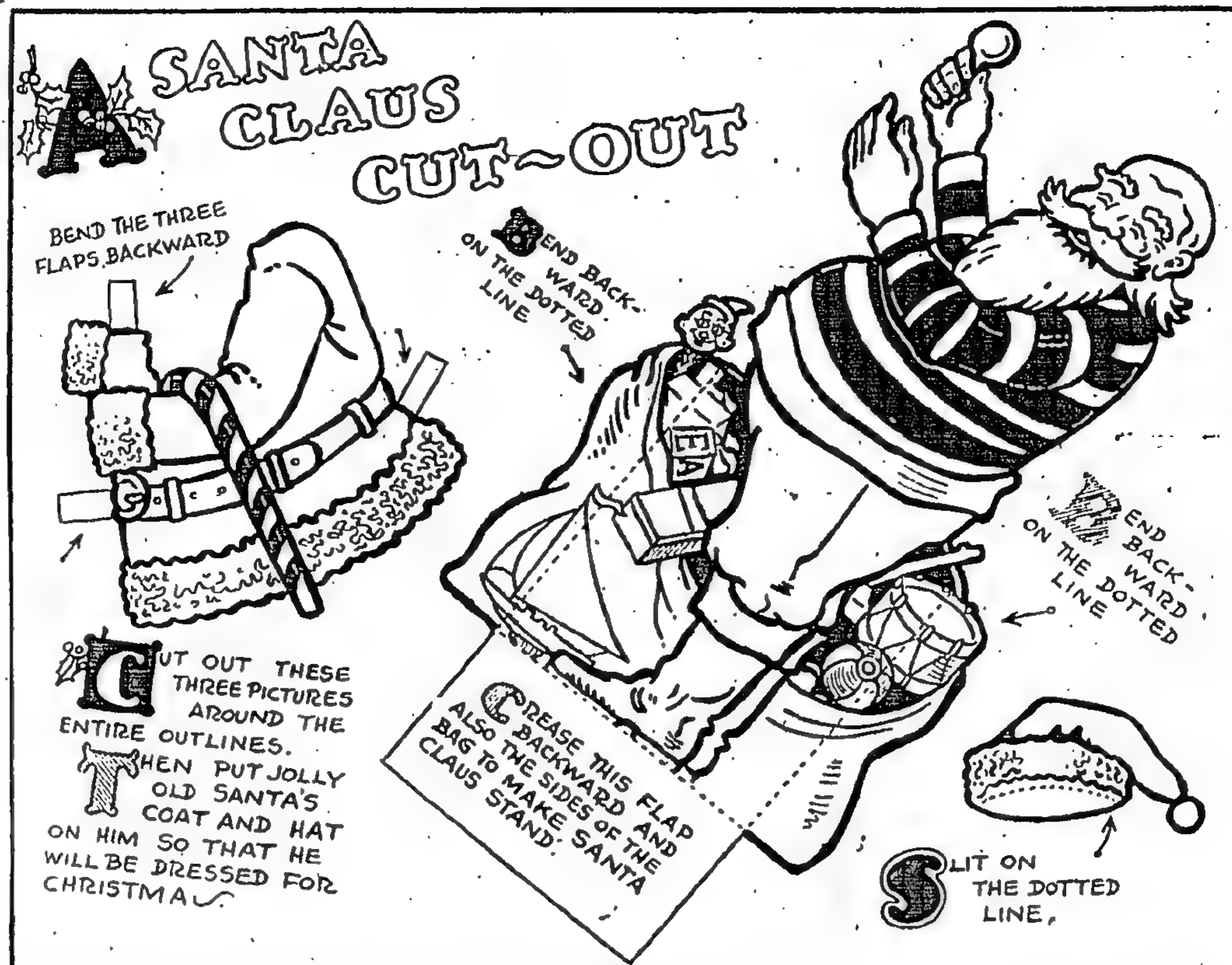
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FUN AND GAMES



TWO ANIMALS WHOSE NAMES START WITH THE LETTER D ARE HIDING FROM THE DOG DETECTIVE. CAN YOU LOCATE THEM?



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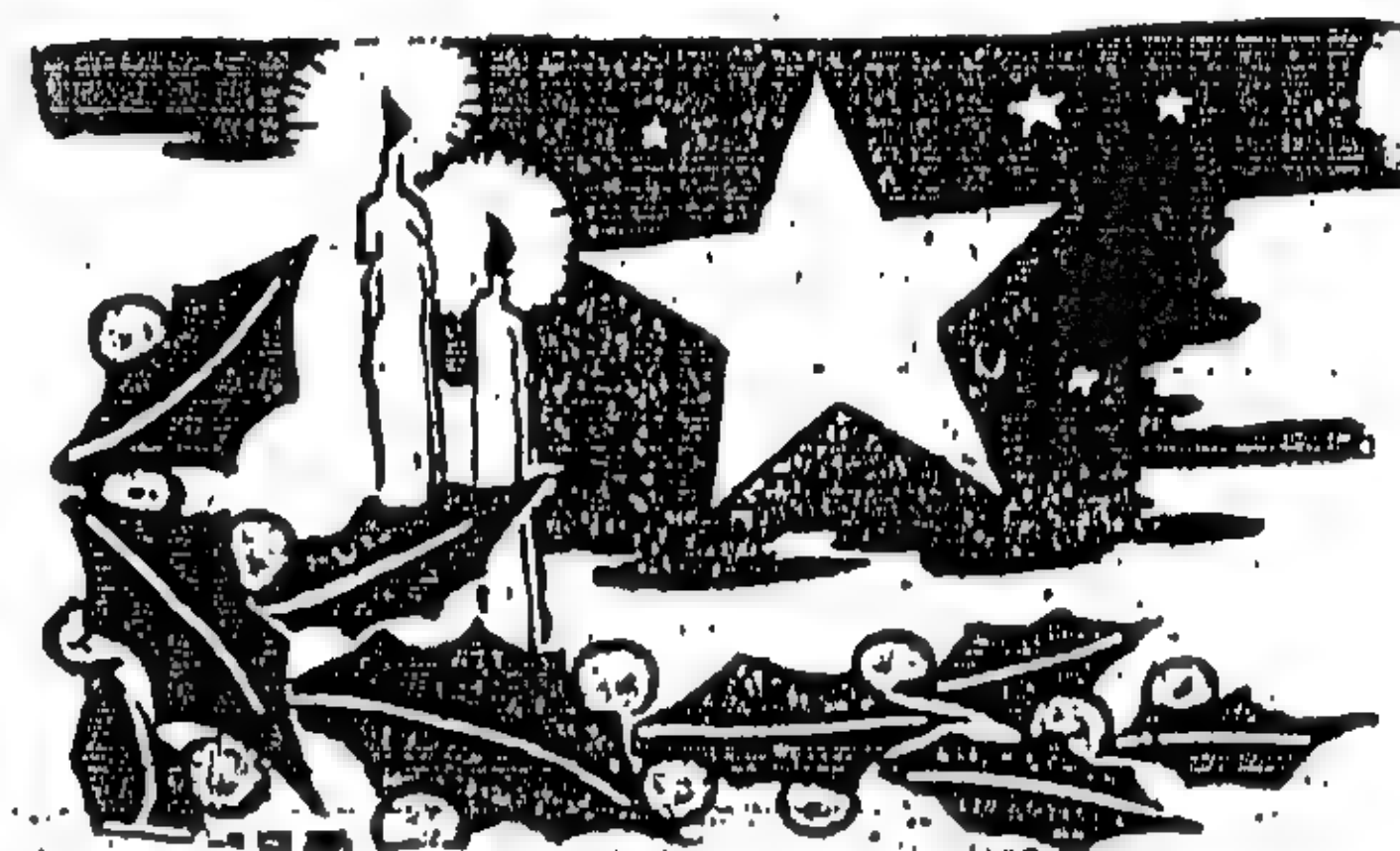
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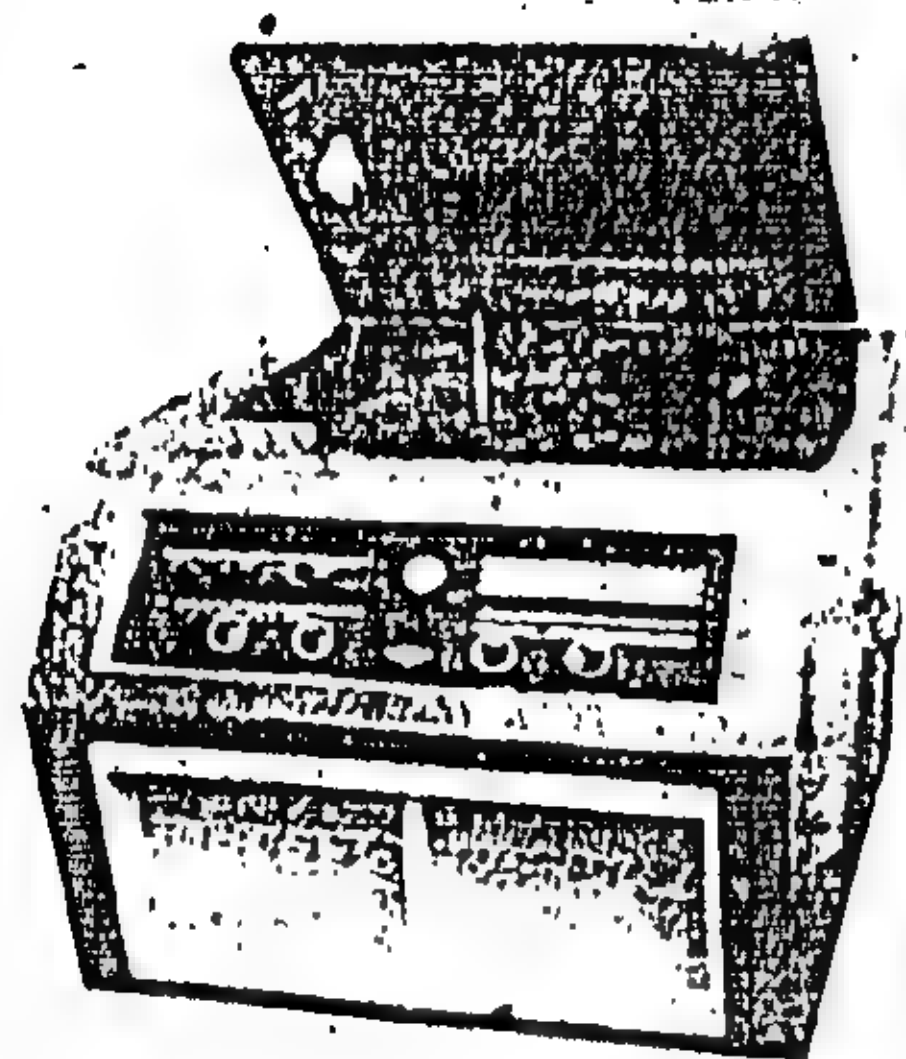
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THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

Check Me If I'm Wrong

If you are a lover of tests and quizzes here are 10 questions that will keep your mental machinery humming for the next few minutes. Besides being a lot of fun they are ideal stimulants for that "fogged out" feeling so many of us experience after a strenuous day at the office. Pull up an easy chair and try them out. They are not too difficult and you should come up with a creditable score.

To get your score, do this: simply allow yourself 10 points for each question correctly answered. A score above 80 is tops; 60 to 80, very good; 40 to 60, average.

Check, Please!

Can you tell why the addition shown here totals up correctly?

A policeman
A kind of rack
The devil
A command to animals
A deer
\$1,013.01

age; and below 40—well, you just did scratch in. The answers are on page 10.

1. If stick is a small cut or a sharp end of a stick, what is a snicker-snicker?
2. If darn means to mend by filling in the hole with yarn or thread and darning needle is the tool or instrument used, what is the meaning of darned?
3. If a wool stapler is a dealer in wool and a woolsorter is a person who sorts wool, what is a woolsorter?
4. If romping is a wild, romping girl and romcat is a full-grown male cat, what is a romcat?
5. If whipsaw is a narrow tapering rip saw and whipsawer is a tube closed at the bottom and attached to the dashboard of a vehicle for holding the butt end of a whip, what is a whipsawer?
6. If a tail is the end of the backbone of an animal's body and a tail-light is a lamp attached to the rear of a vehicle, what is a tailboard?
7. If a crowd means a crowd and a crowd means to bind tightly, what are scudding clothes?
8. If a dead wall is a blank wall and a dead letter is an unclaimed letter, what is a dead ringer?
9. If a snarl means to strike or hit and snarl is a line or ridge of grass, what is a snarl?
10. If a peacock is a gallinaceous bird with handsome plumage and a peahen is a female peafowl, what is a peajerk?

Need something to keep you busy? Here are stunts that you and your guests should find entertaining.

Are You A Good Sport?

In each of these jumbled phrases, you'll find the name of a famous sports star—and I've given you a small clue about the sport in which he (or she) excels. Just twist the letters around—and you'll have the name of the star. Number of times it appears. You are a good sport with eight right answers are on page 10.

1. he rub hat
2. I'm lil wild at net
3. bet only C. rules
4. bag par-ty
5. wain John hulls
6. hunt are jolly swim
7. Ol run via map
8. C. hurl be. bull
9. enty long ton
10. O! R. J. brr. no tees

Card Of (What) Calling

SIMON SCUTTLE

Reno, Nev.

Can you find out what profession the gentleman has by rearranging the letters contained in the card? Answer is on page 10.

How Good An Estimator Are You?

In some of the items which follow you will no doubt know the answer; in others you may have to estimate—or guess. A score of seven estimated correctly is excellent. Answers are on page 10.

1. The length of an ordinary match is about (a) 1 1/2 inches, (b) 2-1/5 inches, (c) 3-2/5 inches.
2. A box 24 inches by 28 inches by 18 inches will hold (a) 5 bushels, (b) 8 bushels, (c) 1 1/2 pecks.
3. The area of Nova Scotia is nearest (a) 20,000 square miles, (b) 14,000 square miles, (c) 50,000 square miles.
4. 1,000 feet of white pine (dry) weighs nearest (a) 25,000 pounds, (b) 3,000 pounds, (c) 700 pounds.
5. The number of words in the Bible is nearest (a) 800,000, (b) 3,000, (c) 25,000.
6. In 1890 the population of New York City was nearest (a) 1,500,000, (b) 908,000, (c) 15,000.
7. The length of the Great Wall of China is nearest (a) 1,500 miles, (b) 870 miles, (c) 240 miles.
8. In the first second of its descent a body falls (a) 10 inches, (b) 3 feet, (c) 16 feet.
9. The official Alaska time

with relation to Greenwich time is (a) 5 hours faster, (b) 2 hours slower, (c) 10 hours slower.

10. The actual number "of languages, computed by officers of the French Academy, is put at (a) 987, (b) 1,764, (c) 2,768.

"Shouts And Murmurs"

Here are ten words dealing with various sounds. All of them end in -ation. Can you fill in the rest of the word? Six is good; eight excellent; and all correct proves your vocabulary is entirely sound (laboured pun intended). See page 10 for correct answers.

1. ation. A crackling sound.
2. ation. The shrill creaking noise made by many insects.
3. ation. A howling, wailing, or hooting sound.
4. ation. A tinkling or ringing sound.
5. ation. The sound of sneezing.
6. ation. A hissing sound.
7. ation. An echoing sound.
8. ation. A loud out-crying; a clamour.
9. ation. A thundering sound.
10. ation. A whispering sound.

It's Almost A Hoax

Can you name the letters of the alphabet which are "symmetrical" in every respect, i.e. those letters you can turn upside down and that you can divide by horizontal or vertical lines into two exactly alike halves? Answered are on page 10.

Word Dressings

By adding to each of the words listed here another word denoting a fruit or vegetable you will be able to form a new word as a result. The number of periods corresponds to the number of letters in the missing "word dressings" (for example: The answer to 1.) ... COCK is PEACOCK). How many more word dressings can you find? A score of 10-12 is excellent; 6-8 good. Answers are on page 10.

- 1.) ... COCK
- 2.) ... MET
- 3.) ... LINE
- 4.) ... LIGHT
- 5.) ... JACK
- 6.) ... ICE
- 7.) ... VINE
- 8.) ... MEAL
- 9.) ... TIER
- 10.) ... PAPER
- 11.) ... SKIN
- 12.) ... MINT

SHADE IN FUN

FIRST USE
PENCIL TO
BLACK IN
ALL THE
"A"
SECTIONS.



THEN DARKEN IN ALL THE "B" SPACES.

NEXT THOSE IN WHICH THERE IS A "C".

THEN SHADE IN ALL THE "D" SPACES.

FINALLY BLACK IN ALL THE "E" DIVISIONS TO SEE WHAT HAS FRIGHTENED THE OTHER FOUR ANIMALS AWAY.

(Released by The Associated Newspapers) 2-6-12-98

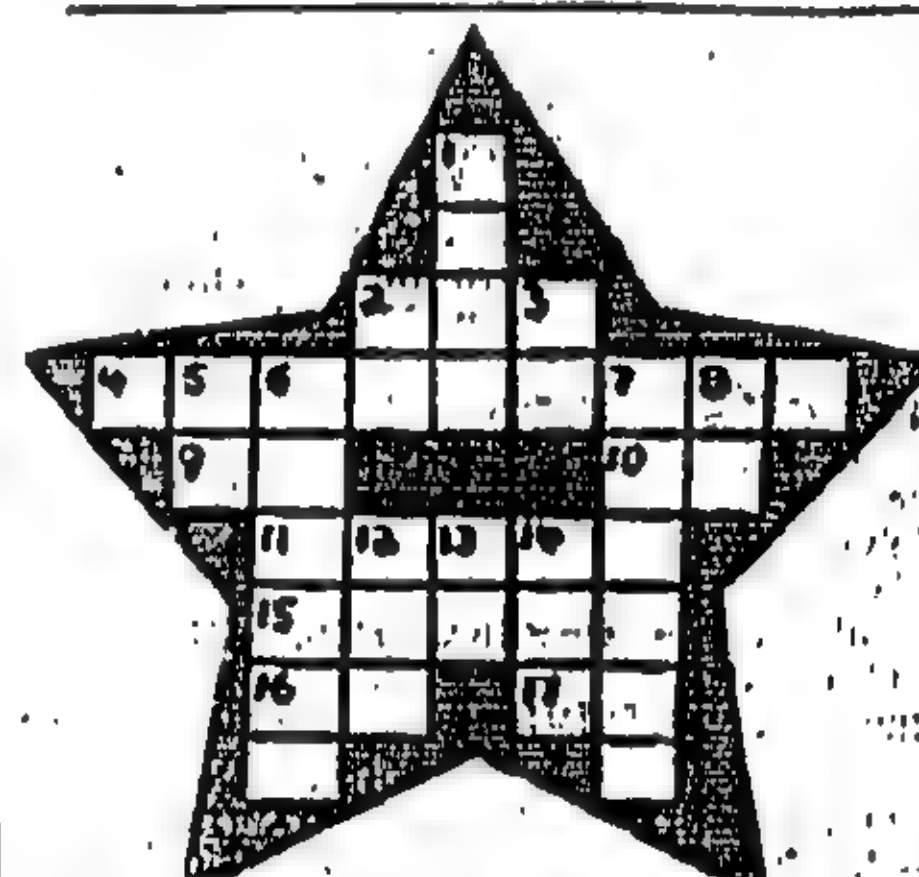
Christmas Star Crossword

In addition to having the form of a star the following crossword puzzle contains several words closely associated with Christmas. Solution is on page 10.

It Strikes!



Performer explains that he can make a safety match strike on his shoe. He takes a box of unprepared matches from someone in the audience, selects one at random, and immediately strikes it on the sole of his shoe. Others may try to duplicate the feat, but can't. Secret: Before doing this trick, performer must take a box of matches and rub some of the striking surface off the side on to his shoe as shown in the upper right-hand illustration. Enough will adhere to make about half a dozen matches light.



ACROSS

1. Where Christ was born
2. Accomplish
3. Exist
4. Group of church singers
5. Christmas character
6. Has being
7. Steamship

DOWN

1. Another name for Christmas
2. Exclamation
3. Musical note
4. Man's name
5. An alarm bell
6. Vox
7. Type measure
8. Possesses
9. Atop
10. Possessive pronoun



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

HONGKONG HOTEL

X'MAS EVE
DECEMBER 24th
GALA DINNER DANCE
TILL 2 A.M.

X'MAS DAY
DECEMBER 25th
DINNER DANCE
TILL 1 A.M.

BOXING DAY
DECEMBER 26th
DINNER DANCE
TILL 1 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
DECEMBER 31st
GALA DINNER DANCE
TILL 2 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1st, 1949
DINNER DANCE
TILL 1 A.M.

PENINSULA HOTEL

X'MAS EVE
DECEMBER 24th
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
TILL 2 A.M.

X'MAS DAY
DECEMBER 25th
DINNER DANCE
TILL 1 A.M.

BOXING DAY
DECEMBER 26th
DINNER DANCE
TILL 1 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
DECEMBER 31st
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
TILL 2 A.M.

REPULSE BAY HOTEL

X'MAS EVE
DECEMBER 24th
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
TILL 2 A.M.

X'MAS DAY
DECEMBER 25th
TEA DANCE
4.00-6.00 P.M.

BOXING DAY
DECEMBER 26th
TEA DANCE
4.00-6.00 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
DECEMBER 31st
SPECIAL DINNER DANCE
TILL 2 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1st, 1949
TEA DANCE 4.00-6.00 p.m.
DINNER DANCE till 1 a.m.

SUNDAY
JANUARY 2nd, 1949
TEA DANCE
4.00-6.00 P.M.

Tickets and Reservations at respective Reception Offices.

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Season's Greetings from.....



ABDULLA
NUMBER SEVEN
7

CHRISTMAS WEDDING EVE

by Betty Smith



THERE was frost around the edges of the windpanes. But through the center of a holly wreath, Janice could see snowflakes falling the wind, banking higher in a white stretch of lawn before the farmhouse.

Would the sun come out tomorrow and shine down on a dazzling white world? Because everywhere it would be Christmas, and it would also be her wedding day.

"There's something rather wonderful about being married on Christmas, isn't there?" she said thoughtfully.

The gray-haired woman before the fire looked up from her knitting and smiled. "Of course there is. And your wedding tomorrow is going to make another lovely Christmas at the farm for us to remember. We've had so many of them. I'm glad now that John and I have always closed our house in Columbus for December and come out here."

"Yes, I know how you feel, Cousin Mary. I'm glad, too,

that these last three years, since I've been away, I've come back for Christmas."

"Well," Mary Holwell reminded her, "your grandfather never wanted you to go away, to work. But girls like to work now."

"No, maybe you wouldn't. His people live there, don't they?"

"Yes, and I met him there last summer, right after he was graduated from college. But I've never met his sister, Sandra. She was away, taking a course in a dramatic school. Doug stopped in New York to see the play she's in now, you know. That's why he couldn't be here for the lovely party you gave me last night. I was terribly disappointed, but I can see how he felt. Sandra's play is closing the first of the year, so last night was the only chance Doug would have to see it. Her understudy will play her part tonight and tomorrow, while she's here for the wedding."

"But she isn't the star in that play, is she?" Mrs. Holwell asked.

"Oh, no. Eileen Shaw is the star. She's gorgeous. Doug knows her. They were—well, a little in love with each other at one time."

Mary Holwell laughed comfortably. "Well, I notice he didn't marry her. He's marrying you. So you haven't anything to worry about. And your Douglas should be here with his sister any minute now."

"I think it was darling of Cousin John to drive the sleigh into Columbus to meet them," Janice remarked. "They'll love that."

"Oh, everybody'll be glad their sleighs this winter because of the gasoline shortage," Mrs. Holwell assured her. "Even Ford Westley, who did so much bragging about his grand new car, has his sleigh out. He said he was coming over to see you today, Jan."

The girl at the window laughed. "You don't like Ford, do you?"

"Oh, yes, I like him well enough, but he's too cocky. I thought that your refusal to marry him might take some of the starch out of him, but it didn't. He just told everybody that he'd never give up hope until you were married to somebody else. He needs taking down a bit."

Still smiling, Jan turned from the window and let her glance sweep over the room. It was a large room with ivory walls, paper and woodwork, and bright chintz draperies at the windows. All the furniture was old—some of it was almost priceless. There were plaques, tables, armchairs with carved frames. There was a rosewood desk and an inlaid spinet which belonged to Jan's great-grandmother, and could still be played.

Between the front windows, reflected in a mirror with an old gilt frame, stood the Christmas tree, tall and magnificent with jewel-colored baubles and a webbed shimmer of silver. There in the graceful dignity of its surroundings, it looked like something straight from elfland. A gift from the little men of the forest to a house that was very old, like themselves.

Beneath the tree there were glimmering packages, wrapped in gold and red, silver and blue. "We'll open our presents just the same tomorrow morning, won't we?" Jan inquired. "Because I won't be married until six o'clock in the evening, and I don't want that to interfere with our Christmas."

"Everything during the day," her cousin promised, "will be just as usual except that we can look forward to your wedding."

"Oh," said Jan, "that's just the way I want it! And now I'm going to take one last look at the hall before Doug comes."

It was worthy of inspection, that old hall. Ivory-colored, like the living room, it ran straight through the house, with rooms on each side. There were a few portraits on the walls and there was an antique sofa with chairs to match. Also, there was a mahogany table holding a large silver bowl filled with holly. The banister on the broad stairway was twined with holly.

"Hurry!" Jan thought, while her throat tightened, a little. Here she had been born, as had so many generations before her. Here her mother and father had died, when she was so young, leaving her to the care of the grandfather who was upstairs now in his room.

And it was the kind of house where almost anything could happen. Things had happened, too!

Turning back to the living room, she remarked, "There was one Christmas here which no one could have wanted to remember," Cousin Mary.

"You mean when Rosemary Wayne ran away?" Mrs. Holwell asked soberly. "Yes, that was bad enough. I was young, of course, but I remember it. I wish I didn't. I wish I could forget the look on your grandfather's face. But I suppose I'm being foolish. All old houses have their tragedies, so why shouldn't this one?"

"Your grandfather," she added, "was a redhead like you, when he was young. I think that was why he worried when you were such a wild, tempestuous child. He was afraid that the Barington pride and temper might make you suffer as he had suffered. But I must say"—she looked up to smile affectionately—"there doesn't seem to be anything wild about you now, at twenty-one. You're a pretty nice girl."

And then, from outside the farmhouse, came the sound of sleigh bells.

Janice sprang to her feet. "They're here! Doug's here!" She darted into the hall, and hung upon the door.

A tall man, carrying a suitcase, was coming up the walk inside the door closed behind him. And Janice was in his arms.

With the first touch of his lips, she thought, "And only a few minutes ago I believed that I was completely happy!"

"Darling, darling!" said Doug, pressing his cold cheek to her glowing one. "I never rode in such a slow train. I thought I'd never get here!"

"But," she remembered, "where's Sandra? Didn't she come?"

"Oh, yes, she came, all right. But she was so intrigued with the sleigh, that Mr. Holwell offered to take her for a ride. They'll be back soon. Have you missed me?"

"Terribly! Oh, Doug, I can hardly believe you're here!"

"And that we're going to be married tomorrow," he added excitedly. "Just think of it! Jan, you're going to belong to me for always!"

"For always!" she whispered. And then, "But you're cold. Take your coat off and come in to the living room, where there's a fire."

He was so tall, straight, and military-looking, so handsome in his uniform, dark eyes, dark hair, restrained from curling, and a skin that never quite lost its summer tan.

"Here he is, Cousin Mary," she cried, as they went into the living room. "This is Douglas. Look at him! Stop—she gave him a good one—see what he's getting for Christmas!"

"Well," said Mary Holwell, rising, "if a soldier's what you want for Christmas, I don't blame you for not looking for her."

Doug gripped her hand. "That's nice of you, anyway. But as you know, of course, I'm the one who's getting the Christmas gift."

Hearing voices in the hall just then, Janice said quickly, "Oh, I want to tell you, Doug, that you won't see grandfather tonight. He went to his room early. He'll be back tomorrow. You'll meet him at breakfast."

Ford Westley came into the room then. He was tall, fair and good-looking. Janice had known him all his life.

As he greeted her, he kept her hand in his for too long. She drew it away, said quickly, "You haven't met Captain Tyler, have you? Doug, this is an old friend of mine, Ford Westley."

The two men shook hands. Ford requested almost at once, "I'd like to see Mr. Barrington."

"Wait," Mrs. Holwell hesitated. "Cousin Alan is resting. Ford."

"But I promised to tell him about that coat at the Manning farm. And I have all the information he wants. Couldn't I go up to his room?"

"Yes, I suppose you could. But wait. He'll be with you."

As he followed Mrs. Holwell to the doorway, Ford glanced back and casually, "Nice to have met you, Captain Tyler."

When they were alone, Doug turned to Jan. "What's the matter with that guy?" And then a look of enlightenment crossed his face. "Oh, he's in love with you! That's why he acted as though I had the plague."

Jan crept into his arms. "Oh, never mind Ford! Let's talk about us. Do you like the house Doug? It will be mine some day. And we'll never, never sell it, will we?"

"I should say not! It's a marvelous old place. But you wrote that you'd tell me why your grandfather wanted us to be married here tomorrow. Tell me now."

He sank into an armchair, and drew her down on his knees. "Jan, you're so beautiful, I can't take my eyes off you. That milk-white skin and glorious red hair. And your eyes seem bluer than ever."

"In other words," said Jan, "I'm all red, white and blue. I shouldn't think we'd need a flag at our house."

But, she thought, with a stab of pain, she would need a flag when he went to war! But she mustn't think of that—not now. She mustn't let anything dim the loveliness of this night.

She added quickly, "I'll tell you why grandfather wanted us to be married here tomorrow, the family legend. And it happened just sixty years ago tonight."

"Grandfather was engaged to a Southern girl, Rosemary Wayne. They loved each other madly. And, Doug, she was so beautiful. Everyone admired her. But she had no family, and grandfather wanted to be married at the farm, so early in December she came and they got ready for the wedding which was to be on Christmas Day."

"But the night before Christmas they quarrelled about something. We have never known what it was. Rosemary walked out of this house when no one was watching, taking only a small bag. All her other things she left. And no one here ever saw her again."

"Didn't she even write to your grandfather?" Doug wanted to know.

"Not at once. On Christmas Day, the guests kept arriving, and were told that there would be no wedding. The family couldn't get word to all of them in time, you see, because there were no telephones. Cousin Mary says she will never be able to forget grandfather's face that day. But, about two weeks later, he received a letter from Rosemary, saying merely that she had married somebody else. She didn't even tell him who she had married or where to send her things."

"I don't think," Jan went on thoughtfully, "that grandfather ever really got over it. He wanted a child of his to inherit the farm as five years later he married my grandmother. But every one believed that he still loved Rosemary. And now, when he's so old, he feels that that tragedy left a kind of blight on the house, and that if there was a happy marriage here on another Christmas Day, it might help to blot out the memory of that wedding which never took place. Do you understand?"

"Yes, I do," Douglas said instantly. "Poor old fellow! I'm doubly glad now that we're being married here tomorrow. Since that's what he wants."

Jan rubbed her cheek against his, said with a little catch in her voice, "It will be so wonderful, Doug!" There was a long pause before she added, "Tell me about the plot last night. Was Sandra married?"

"Well, she was darned good. I didn't know she had it in her. And did you see Eileen Shaw?"

"Doug, I don't know. I'm not sure. I did see her starting in the play. He added more soberly, "Darling, I wish you'd stop thinking about Eileen."

"But you were in love with her!"

"After a fashion, yes. But most boys fall in love with girls who are over if they're really in love with me."

"I don't believe it," Jan said solemnly. "But let's see if Sandra hasn't been your sister, and wouldn't she have been that part in Eileen's play?"

"You little girl with that head! I'm going to go with me. Eileen really wanted to help Sandra. But I'm sorry about Eileen. Eileen, along with that guy who's in love with you. This is the night, sweet. Just yours and mine."

(Continued on Page 11)

Gift Sensation of the Year



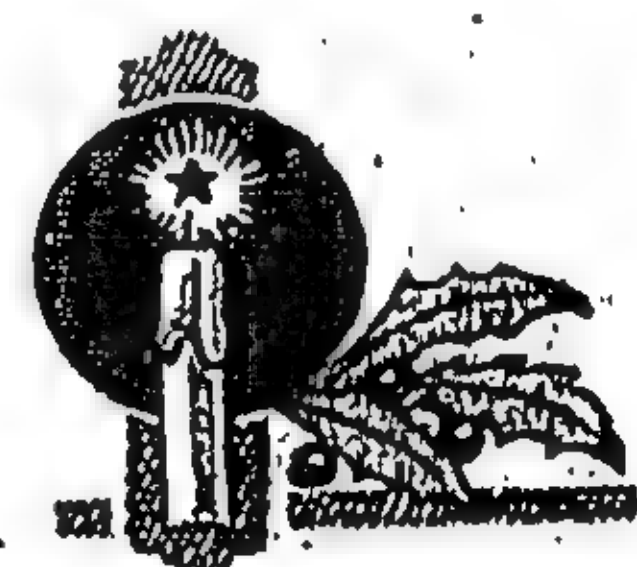
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3. PAN-CAKE MAKE-UP SET... Glamorous in a gorgeous Christmas gift box... contains Max Factor Hollywood Pan-Cake Make-Up, Face Powder, Rouge, Lipstick, Skin Freshener and Lipstick...
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MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS CARDS

BY DONNA ASHWORTH

IF YOU don't think without much thought about individuals, you can go down the week before Christmas and get them, but if you give them that personal touch you have to think about them a long time ahead. I am going to tell you how you can make your own cards.

Isn't the Christmas card custom dying out? Sue asked last Christmas when I was busy getting my lists ready.

"Dying out!" I exclaimed. Such a wonderful custom couldn't die out. It must have been going on forever, but I found that it started a mere 89 years ago when St. Henry Cole, in 1846, thought about sending the first Christmas cards. I can imagine him standing talking to Joseph Cardall, a London artist of the time.

"Joseph," he probably said, "why don't we send out some sort of greeting card at Christmas time? Nice idea, don't you think?"

"You have something there, my good fellow," Joe, no doubt agreed. "I'll just see J.C. Horsley of the Royal Academy, and get him to make us a drawing for one."

So J.C. Horsley made a lithographed card in black and white and coloured it by hand. A thousand copies of it were sold, but it was eighteen years before Christmas cards really became popular. Then the King and Queen took a fancy to the idea and had distinguished artists paint appropriate cards which they had reproduced in colour.

Fifteen years later a London company sent the first cards to the United States. It looked like a good business, so a Boston firm began to make American Christmas cards. In the spring of 1880, this firm conducted a contest for the best designs for Christmas cards with a first prize of \$1,000, to which about 600 designs were submitted. That year the sales ran into the thousands; today they are sold by the millions.

I have gathered together some suggestions for personalised Christmas cards, which I hope you will like.

Another simple painted one is on blue note paper with a white ink snow man with a black hat and black buttons, with a white ink Merry Christmas.



Another simple painted one is on blue note paper with a white ink snow man with a black hat and black buttons, with a white ink Merry Christmas.

Cut-out cards are easy to make. Take a piece of green construction paper and paste on it a smaller square of white, on top of that another smaller square of green, and paint a gold border around it, like a picture frame. On top of that, cut out a little paper Christmas tree and glue it in the middle, and your card is complete.

Now, more than ever before we should send Christmas messages of good will. The decorations aren't up, and it seems like a long time until Christmas. But it's just around the corner. And I must get busy but I'll begin by sending you my Christmas Greetings now.

Linoleum Prints

If you are interested in making such cards, here are suggestions about how to proceed. Linoleum blocks made from butterslip linoleum may be purchased at most art supply stores, paint shops or book stores. Paint the linoleum block with white show card paint so that when you start putting on your design it can be seen easily for cutting. Sometimes you can find these blocks in white linoleum which do not need to be painted. Like all printing, the sketch and lettering must be made in reverse, so the best thing to do is to make your design on tracing paper. Put the design face down on a heavy carbon on the block, and since your tracing paper is thin enough for you to see the design through the back, you can trace it off. To keep this from slipping, fasten your design over the block, pinning down the ends and sides with thumbtacks. When you remove this, if there is any doubt about your lines being clear, go over them carefully with India ink. Then with a knife or U-shaped gouge, cut away the surface of the block from the outline of your pattern, leaving in relief, the design which you are going to use.

You are now ready to have the card printed. Now, I said "have" because unless you are in an art class or have studied art at some time, you will not have the tools available for printing your cards in a satisfactory manner, and the best thing to do is to take your block to a printer and let him print your cards.

You may not want to try the linoleum blocks and perhaps you do not have a flair for photography, but there is still a simple type of personal card which anyone can make. All you need is white drawing paper, ink and a fine pointed pen.

Hand Lettering

A friend of mine took some white paper, drew a Christmas tree on it and within the outline of the tree she wrote her Christmas message—sometimes a happy thought, other times a lovely bit of favourite verse. Verses that we have gathered through the years that seem to express just what we want can be used on the hand-lettered card to good advantage.

Greetings from you in bold white lettering on a dark blue background with the address in the same old white lettering is another easy way to make lettered cards.

And, what could be more cheery than a big red Merry Christmas from you with a few minuscules of "Silent Night," written in black ink on red paper and pinned on with an ordinary pin. The white paper is glued under the music to a larger sheet of red which makes the boxier. When it is folded and sealed with Christmas seals, it makes the envelope for mailing.

All of these are made of construction paper and show card paper, which comes in all colours. A small candle-burner, used for the burning of the

SOUTH SEA CHRISTMAS

Feasting and fun on a coral isle with no shops.

Not long ago we were spending our first Christmas together since our marriage, on a small coral atoll in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. There were no shops on Funafuti, no doctors, no other white people, no fresh meat, and no green vegetables. Little besides coconut palms grew there, and a ship came three times a year to bring us stores.

We thought our Christmas was going to be dull, as we slumped at mosquitoes and stared at the brown children, who had never heard of Santa Claus, sitting in the hot sunshine. Not one of their parents had seen a mountain, a river, or a horse, or a soldier—let alone a tin soldier or a Christmas tree!

It was not dull, however. On Christmas Eve there was excitement in the air. In the little thatched houses, furnished only with a bed canopy with a mosquito net, and lit only by a hurricane lantern slung from a beam, dark figures sat half-naked on the floor. They were playing games, singing and telling stories, the babies big-eyed in their midst. The huts were gay with streamers made from strips of newspaper and old labels from salmon and sardine tins strung together.

We handed out tins of talcum powder, bottles of scent, bars of soap, strings of beads, bangles, brooches, ribbons, pipes, baubles, combs, mirrors and umbrellas which we had brought with us specially for this occasion, and a chorus of happy voices wished us a merry Kalasimasa.

By
Lucille
Iremonger

powder and scent we had given them, until their faces were chalky white and streaked with runnels of sweat.

They stopped as suddenly as they had begun, and fled without warning. They had gone to prepare themselves for Divine Service.

In the little whitewashed church with the corrugated iron roof in the village we found them again. Dressed in pure white, they sat meekly on clean buff-coloured mats spread the length of the floor. The children sat in a row in front. Along the sides stalked deacons, glowering ferociously, armed with heavy fans, with which they clouted restive children mercilessly.

We alone sat on chairs. The natives never used them, and so when they made them they were never very comfortable. No two legs were ever the same length, so we had an uneasy service.

The congregation sang a few hymns in harmony in very high voices, then the pastor gave a dramatic description of the arrival at the Inn at Nazareth—I knew no Samson, but he acted the various parts so vigorously that I could not fail to follow the story. After that the male

members of the congregation took it in turns to preach, ending with the pastor's son, a mere body. He was evidently intended for the Church, as he had been christened Parson.

First Party And Christmas Tree

After church the children came to our party, and their first Christmas tree. We had no tinsel or glass balls, no holly or mistletoe, no paper cups and no coloured Chinese lanterns, but three or four palm fronds tied together into a strange tree blossomed with wreaths of frangipani, model canoes, painted eggs, baby chickens, fishing rods, glass marble and toys made from matchboxes. The children quailed with delight, ate home-made sweets and cakes, and played Musical Chairs and Hunt-the-Slipper like children all the world over. This was their Christmas party.

Afterwards we ate our smoked roast pork (our first fresh meat for months) and drank our Australian beer. Wreathed with flowers, we watched the dancing far into the night. At midnight the wireless operator handed us a sheet of cables which had come from all over the world to our little island. We realised with a shock that we had forgotten to be homesick or dull. It had been the best Christmas we had ever had.

This year we shall think of our friends in Funafuti, celebrating their Christmas in sunshine with dance and song and, perhaps, a Christmas "tree" adopted in some peculiar form or other to their island rites.

Christmas In Hospital

About 100 university men and girl students will spend most of their Christmas holidays making themselves useful in London hospitals.

Some 150 men and women will take part in similar schemes in four provincial towns.

For a fortnight they will act as full-time ward orderlies, doing all the menial non-nursing jobs in the wards. Some will be living in at the hospitals. The scheme is an extension of the hospital week-end schemes under which London University Colleges have provided ward orderlies for eight hours at week-ends.

Students get paid £10 an hour for hospital work as ward orderlies and they have a chance of promotion to less menial jobs. The Scheme has been approved by Ministry of Labour.

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THEY started off on the morning of Boxing Day, not with any particular destination in mind, but rather to escape the loneliness into which their Christmas had thrust them. To both of them had come the realization that Christmas was a thing of the past. But then they were both people of an era long gone and, as they thought, forgotten.

Even the vehicle in which they travelled was antique, a relic of Mr. Todd's "mushy" days, when it was the very last word and indispensable for counting. Year after year he had kept it, for as they grew older and further away from the happy days, as Mr. Todd called them, the vehicle seemed to bring into their lives a vestige of lost happiness.

It was a car of the early years of the century, built high off the ground, the thick-spoked wheels rimmed with solid worn tyres, the back curving sharply up wards. A veil-like pattern of wrinkles creased the button-stuffed upholstery, through which tufts of coarse horsehair stuffing grew like weeds. The short, flat bonnet ended in a radiator flanked by enormous acetylene lamps. The high vertical windshield was a frame through which one could imagine flat-capped and bearded gentlemen in "dust-coats," ladies in scarf-bound hats.

To Mr. and Mrs. Todd also eluded traces of the Edwardian day: the gold ring through which his tie was knotted round the deep collar; Mrs. Todd's lace "front," with its high neck and its bone supports, and her tucked and narrow-waisted blouses and umbrella skirt.

People started, of course, but that was simply the modern way in the select terrace to which Mr. Todd returned in the evenings from the Stock Exchange, their neighbours had become accustomed to them. They were treated with some respect.

But now, travelling on this Boxing morning through a district in which they were unknown, they attracted some attention. Groups of small children stopped to stare at the antique vehicle. One of two of the patients were illuminated enough to laugh outright in the street.

But Mr. and Mrs. Todd sat in high and solitary dignity, an elderly couple remote in years from even the roads along which they drove. Yet there clung to them a humility that had its own beauty.

They had not decided where they would go. Silent mutual consent had driven them from the plush and mahogany dining-room in which they had breakfasted. Christmas Day had proved more than they could bear. After the morning greeting and the exchange of the shirt and the

CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

ing of beads that were their yearly gifts to each other, they became lost. Dinner was a confused affair, during which they passed the vegetables to each other and spoke of the days when Christmas was really Christmas, and not just a period of radio entertainment. They went to bed at nine o'clock, after Mr. Todd had decided that the weather would turn even milder and more unlike Christmas than ever.

But, perversely, now that they had come so far from home, the wind seemed to be turning colder, the sky more grey. Yet anything was better than the loneliness of the house and the memories of the past. Mr. Todd gave his wife another rug to put over her knees, and they drove on, a feather of steam puffing from the front of the incredible vehicle.

They had now come far from the town.

"I suppose, Edward," Mrs. Todd said, "that by midday we shall get to a town where there is a restaurant?"

"Westwater, my dear. It's about ten miles further on."

Ahead of them the road curled through wooded slopes.

"How pretty those firs would look with snow on them, Edward," said Mrs. Todd. "A real Christmas scene." But such a thing, of course, would not happen today.

Strangely, the scene was not familiar to Mr. Todd, though he thought he knew the Westwater road fairly well. Was it possible that they had taken the wrong rural path back when they came to the fork? However, he would say nothing about it yet. Even if he were wrong, they would come to a town sooner or later. It seemed a very long way. They had climbed a long steep hill to the top of the wooded slopes and now the road ran down beneath an avenue of giant elms and beeches to a valley. In it was a village, with a grey church on which was a candle-snuffer steeple like a thick, beckoning finger. But no sign of Westwater, nor of any town.

Getting out, Mr. Todd put his ear to the radiator. It was boiling and bubbling as if in protest at the distance it had been forced to go without replenishment. "We shall have to get some water from that village," he said. "Perhaps there they can also put us on the right road. We seem to have come astray."

Mrs. Todd sat in tight-lipped silence. Really, it was too bad of Edward—all this way and then not even on the right road; and it was getting so cold, and so grey. She pulled the rug farther round her knees and adjusted her fur bon closer to her throat.

A cold mid-winter wind was sweeping up from the valley, bringing with it a threat of snow. It seemed that the stark trees, with their skeleton, interlacing branches, supported the leaden weight of the sky, the while they moved slowly down towards the village, from which rose plumes of smoke and sounds of merriment.

As they drove across a frozen-backed bridge spanning a frozen stream, the first flakes of snow began to fall. The village was there before them, a single street stretching up the far side of the valley, with the church and school set slightly apart down a narrow lane. Through the soft spilling of the snowflakes, they could see no one. But, as if muted by distance and the thickening whiteness, there came the sound of voices. "The Twelve Days of Christmas," Mr. Todd drove—coaxed the streaming car along the street.

A Short Story By ALAN WYKES

It was exhibited and produced from the ancient chassis a sound of brass and of tinkling cymbal. There could be no question of any further driving.

"We must find shelter, my dear," Mr. Todd said. His wife, sniffing through her thin, bitter nostrils, said tartly, "It would be simpler, Edward, if you were to get out and knock at the door of the cottage outside which we are sitting."

There was no need for that; an old man came out of the cottage as Mr. Todd climbed down. His appearance linked him to an age that was distant even when Mr. Todd had bought his car. "Todd had bought his car," he said. "That's a fine brougham you've got there. Leaning on a twisted ash stick, he looked at the lamps and the tyres at the windscreen and finally at Mrs. Todd.

"Merry Christmas, m'lady." His voice was a croak from behind two aged teeth, but his eyes were bright blue in his walnut-wrinkled face. "Ye'll be going to the party?"

"We require shelter," Mrs. Todd said. "Ar. That's right, snow's layin' on the old man said. 'Ye'll find 'um all in the Institute Hut.' He waved his stick. 'That's where 'um all are, right enough.' And he hurried off to join 'um, walking through the whirling feathers of snow. "There's nothing for it," Mr. Todd said, "but to go to this Institute Hut. It seems everyone is there."

Mrs. Todd sat in rigid silence as they drove down the lane towards the church.

The Institute Hut was built of wood and raised off the earth on piles of bricks. It was small, but it seemed to hold as many people as Waterloo Station at a holiday week-end.

The vicar, in a Santa Claus robe and clerical collar, stood at the door.

"Come in, come in," he said, "you're just in time for the lancers."

"We were not invited. We wanted—"

"Of course," the vicar said warmly, "everyone's invited. Come and join in."

That hut was hung with chains of gay paper and ropes of tinsel; paper bells swung in the air that was rustling with a gentle breeze. Along the far wall, Mr. Todd could see, through the press of dancers, a long table covered with cakes, sandwiches, jellies, and cold chicken. From every lamp hung bunches of holly and mistletoe, and in the centre of the table was a Christmas tree with its star among the roof beams.

"We always have a party," the vicar said, and was gone; his red robe swinging behind him, to become a partner in the lancers.

The music came from the flag-decorated stage at the end of the hut, where three old ladies in velvet tapped the floor with their buttoned boots as they sat on ribbioned Windsor chairs.

It was all most confusing. But somehow, without knowledge, request, nor assent, Mr. and Mrs. Todd were suddenly in the midst of the confusion, passing beneath the lancers, twirling round, first with one partner then another, until, as the music faded in an outburst of clapping and laughter, they really didn't know if their feet and heads were their own.

But then, as Mr. Todd remembered, it had always been a strenuous dance, even for a young man. Sitting against the wall beneath a potted palm, he looked at Mrs. Todd. She was smiling, quite youthfully, he thought.

Then came a valset. Mr. Todd partnered a stout lady in sequined and velvet. "I had no idea," he whispered as they linked arms, "that these old dances were still—"

She seemed not to hear, or understand—he wasn't sure which. She said merely:

"Enjoy yourself while you're young, dearie. You're the sort that may forget how to when you get old." Such a strange thing to say—particularly as at that moment Mr. Todd felt younger than he had for years. He saw his wife for a moment before the polka began. He stood beside her beneath an oleograph of Queen Victoria. He was certain that her hair had lost its grey, but perhaps it was just the yellow light of the lamps that turned it back to the gold of their courting days.

He had no time to wonder, for almost at once the music started again and he found that the polka, which he thought he had forgotten, came as easily to his feet as though he had danced it yesterday.

Then suddenly he noticed something else: everyone—even the children—was dressed in clothes that had been fashionable when he was a boy.

So that, he thought, is why we were taken for guests. He remembered how, nowadays, it seemed that everyone littered when he and Mrs. Todd entered a room, smiling at their outmoded clothes. It must be a fancy-dress party, he supposed regretfully, in a minute a jazz band and crooner would appear.

But nothing like that happened. The vicar, holding his false beard in one hand and adjusting his robe with the other, announced that the Male Voice Quartet would now render "The Holly and the Ivy," after which would come the interval for refreshments and distribution of gifts from the Christmas tree.

The male voices, trimmed with Dundreary whiskers and hand-dbar moustaches, proceeded to render:

"Your hair, my dear," said Mr. Todd. "It is really quite golden."

"Of course, Edward dear," she said. She adjusted the cameo at her neck. "Had you not noticed it?"

He had, of course—years before. But lately—

"Don't try to, dear," she said. He could see now that it wasn't only her hair: it was her mouth and eyes. He took her hand and held it. "Don't try to remember, Edward dear, just be here."

So that was it. She had discovered the secret—somehow, than he.

As the quartet rendered, as an encore, "God Rest You Merry," Mr. Todd watched the soft descent of snow and the drifting whiteness at the windows' corners. He abandoned altogether the knowledge of their journey to this place and the thought that presently they must return.

Then, in a long, whispering breath of delight, the silence was broken.

There was rustling and laughter as people stepped forward to take their pink-and blue-wrapped gifts.

"...for any gentleman with a window-box..."

"...for the tallest gentleman..."

"...for the newest bride..."

People went, laughing, over to the chairs against the wall to open their packages. Slowly the floor became littered with red and green and orange string, scraps of coloured paper, tiny seals.

"...for the child with the smallest doll..."

Mr. and Mrs. Todd, in the dwindling crowd round the tree, stood watching.

Still the presents were handed out, to young and to old.

"...for the couple longest married..."

"There seems to be something for everyone," Mrs. Todd said.

Mr. Todd, beside her, smiled.

"Of course, my dear; it's a Christmas Party."

Among the flags and holly of the stage the music was heard again. The three old ladies in velvet had been joined by a fourth, who sat in upright dignity at the cottage piano. "Waves of the Ocean" trembled softly among the paper chains and the mistletoe.

Folk were now dancing again, or dashing to and from the table, carrying plates of Sandwiches, pink and white cakes, glasses of lemonade.

There were still a few presents left on the tree.... "for any gentleman with an embroidered waistcoat..."

Then, in a few moments, there were only two packages left; and only Mr. and Mrs. Todd to receive them.

"They must be for you," said the Santa Claus vicar, and read out the labels:

"For the lady and gentleman who have come the farthest!"

The music had stopped, and the vicar's voice sounded clearly.

"Oh," said Mr. Todd, "yes, I suppose that must be us."

Carrying their gifts, they walked back through the dispersing dancers, but were caught in the sudden silence, as, on the stage, a lady in a long, tight-waisted dress and elbow-length gloves, and a gentleman with narrow white tie to his evening dress, began to sing, "Rose So Softly Blooming."

The candles on the Christmas tree had burned quite low; and Mr. Todd remarked, "I feel quite fatigued with dancing, my dear."

Which was all just as it should be, of course. So much joy and laughter and music was apt to make one—even when one was young—feel tired.

"We have a long journey, Edward," said Mrs. Todd gently.

"Strangely, Mr. Todd had forgotten that. Even now he could not be completely sure where they had to go—it would come to him in a minute. First they must thank their host."

He crossed to the vicar, who had taken off his red robe and was snuffing the last stump of candle on the tree.

"May I?" he said, "on behalf of Mr. Todd and myself—thank you."

But the vicar only smiled, and looked up at the empty, unlighted tree.

Softly, the scent of the forest mingled with the smell of candle-wax, just as it had when they were young.

When they came out to the moonlit snow, and saw their motor-car standing waiting for them, Mr. Todd remembered where they had to go.

They wrapped up well, with the rugs tucked securely round their knees, for it was cold. The snow was no longer falling. It lay on the valley like a flood of light. Lighted windows bloomed flowerlike and in the sky were a million stars.

Just like the happy days, Mr. Todd thought, and swung the starting handle of the ancient car.

They began to climb slowly out of the valley, away from the village.

"A wonderful time, my dear. Just like the happy days, Edward. We really went right back to them tonight."

There was a quiet content in his wife's voice, a softness that had long been missing.

He didn't quite understand, but drove on, thinking.

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CHRISTMAS TREE WITH LOVE

(Continued from Page 4)

"You're smart," Jimmy laughed back. "I've got a guy beside me holding half my head right now. Look, tell Shea the bookie just called. His horse was scratched, but I bet Buck Private for him instead. It's a bunch—a long shot. If it comes in, we'll continue the celebration tonight."

The horse came in. They spent a wild, hectic night at Jimmy's drinking champagne, singing old songs. Vandy and Shea put together a lot of crazy lyrics for the horse song that Shea said would probably sound awfully corny the next day.

Vandy tried to make believe she was having a gay time, but her head ached horribly. Her lovely eyes were bloodshot from the smoke. One day faded into another like dissolve shots in a movie. Everything heeled, unhealed. Laughing, drinking, as if life must be lived completely all in one week.

Shea's horses came in for him very day, miraculously, but the money melted away. Then Saturday came and Shea was awake, cold sober, suddenly, at nine o'clock. He was dressed, stuffing song manuscripts into a brief case when Vandy sat up in bed trying to orient herself.

"Where are you off to?" she complained.

Shea said gruffly, "I've got to dig up some dough. I can't seem to find that fifty I had tucked away for the hotel bill."

"You kept insisting on that last round last night," Vandy reminded him.

Shea looked annoyed. "Couldn't you have stopped me?"

"I made a promise—I've tried to keep it," Vandy answered. "Don't worry about the hotel bill. Jack will take care of it."

"Oh, no, he won't," Shea rasped. "Morgan Vail is back. I'll sell him my title, and I'll show him the horse song. It's not corny enough to click. I'll be back noon."

He gave her a butterfly kiss on the cheek and was gone. After a bath and a sketchy breakfast, Vandy decided to take down the tree. She didn't want time on her hands to think. The paper to be left on the table by the vase. The table. Last night's flowers looked deflated in a vase.

Vandy took the empty carton, in which the Christmas ornaments had been packed, out of the closet. She started taking the ornaments off the tree and her ring kept catching in the wire hangers, so she took it off and laid it on the table by the vase. She was standing on a chair getting the ornaments off the top of the tree, when Shea came in. She could tell by his face he hadn't seen Vail. He said, "Vail won't be in until two o'clock. If he comes at all. His secretary says he has a big New Year's party on."

Vandy started to say, "Don't worry about it," but checked herself. She saw Shea walk over to the table, pick up her ring and look at it, then put it down swiftly as if it were red-hot.

"Kind of careless with the crown jewel of a sudden, aren't you?" he barked.

Vandy pretended to be very busy taking down a string of lights. "It kept catching on the hooks. I was afraid the stone would come loose," she said. Then, a pause, and suddenly, without knowing why, she blurted, "If you want to pawn it, Shea, it will make you feel any better to pay the hotel bill. It's O.K. with me. I can get it out later."

She didn't look at him—she couldn't. She heard him make a peculiar sound in his throat as if he were exasperated. Then he said, "I'll be back in a little while." As he walked to the door, the porter knocked. He had Shea's trunk that had been in the storage room. Shea told him to put it over by the table; then he left the room.

The porter loitered around the longest while getting the trunk set. It seemed to Vandy. The moment he left, she looked on the table for her ring. It was gone! Shea had taken it, then. She had hoped it was one thing; now she wouldn't do. Even when she told him he could have the horse song, he wouldn't. It was a silly way to feel, as if a last, blinding link to something you wanted desperately to hold on to was broken. Shea brought almost hopefully a moment—the porter, maybe—but that was out of the question. She hadn't taken her eyes off him from the time he entered the room. Besides, she knew him well. He was thoroughly honest.

Vandy cried then. Minutes flew by, then hours, and Shea didn't come back. Vandy thought, "This is the finish. You can't go on forever having your heart thrown in your face. When I say good-bye to him tomorrow morning it will be for good. He never should have married—never in a million years!"

At six o'clock he came in, slightly light with Jimmy's brandy and a huge box of flowers that must have cost plenty.

"Here, my ring and purse are," he said. "I thought you'd want them. I've got a quart of champagne here, crying to be drunk."

It was on the tip of Vandy's tongue to say, "I don't want any. I'm through. I'll spend my New Year's Eve alone, the way I spent Christmas." Then she thought, "Well, it's the finish. Why not let it go out in a blaze of champagne, wisecracks and laughter?"

She went to the phone, ordered the ice and glasses. Jimmy stood teetering back and forth, looking at the tree.

"That's the nakedest-looking tree I ever saw," he complained. "Didn't you trim it at all?"

"I just untrimmed it," Vandy retorted, and Jimmy said yearningly, "I love a tree. We always had one at home. Funny, how you get away from all those things on Broadway. Next year I'm gonna have one in my joint way up to the ceiling."

Shea looked at Vandy. He seemed suddenly very sober. His eyes looked suspiciously moist. He walked over to Vandy, took her in his arms and said huskily, "Sorry, sweet. Next year, maybe, we'll have a big tree, too, and the sort of Christmas you like. I'll try to make it come true—honestly, I will."

Vandy thought, "This is his way of apologizing—all he'll ever say about it. I'm going to stick by the army will straighten him out. I can't get killed for hopping, can I? It isn't the finish. I guess it never will be, but something's gone—something vital."

The ice came. Shea took a roll of bills out of his pocket and the hotel bill. "Pay this when you go downstairs, will you?" he instructed the bellboy. He gave him a dollar tip and said, "Happy New Year, kid." The boy said, "Well, thanks, and a Happy New Year to you, Mr. Hennessy."

Shea smiled hazily. "Well, maybe . . . maybe."

He phoned downstairs and asked the correct time, and Vandy looked at him inquiringly, but he looked over her head. They drank the champagne. There were some feeble jokes, but Shea seemed to be miles away. Vandy wondered if Jimmy intended to stay indefinitely. Then the phone rang, and Jimmy and Shea looked at each other significantly. Shea flew to answer it.

Vandy saw his face light up as if he'd just heard some marvelous news. She thought, "Another horse came in. I suppose. But where was it running, for goodness sake? It's after seven."

She heard Shea say, "Well, sure, it's O.K. . . . No, I can't come over. I'm going to stick with my wife tonight. . . . Well, thanks, but she'd kind of tired of parties. We're going to spend this New Year's Eve alone. Send it by a messenger, will you, and right away. Thanks, Morgan."

"Oh," Vandy thought weakly. "This time it's not a horse. It's Morgan Vail."

Before Shea could say a word, Jimmy grabbed her hand pumped it hard. "I told you, didn't I, pal? I knew you'd sell that patriotic tune. He's been working on it all afternoon in my joint," Jimmy explained to Vandy. "He thought it was corny. I told him he'd sell it."

Shea grinned. "It's nothing! I sold both of 'em. He bought the horse song, too. He says it should be a novelty sensation. Fifteen hundred bucks advance."

Shea laughed exultantly. "And it's all yours, baby, with the exception of the dough I just borrowed from Jimmy for the hotel bill, in case I didn't land with Vail."

Vandy had a queer feeling at the pit of her stomach. "You mean, didn't you? She glopped herself in time. She must never let him know she suspected he had pawned her ring."

"I didn't what?" Shea asked. "Oh, nothing, nothing," Vandy hedged.

There was a tap at the door, and Jimmy said, "That's fast service. He must be Mercury."

A moment later, Shea was counting out fourteen crisp, new hundred-dollar bills into Vandy's hand, but all she could think was, "Shea didn't take my ring—no didn't pawn it. It must be in this room somewhere. I'll have to look for it. I can't wait. I'll have to get Shea out for a few moments while I look."

She spread the money like a fan and laughed nervously. "I feel filthy rich. If you boys will step down into the lobby while I get into my clothes, I'll buy a bottle of champagne at Jimmy's to celebrate."

Shea's eyes widened. He looked ready to wring Vandy's neck. "It that isn't just like a woman! Here I plan a quiet New Year's Eve alone, and she goes gay on me."

Vandy pushed him toward the door. "Well, be alone later. Right now I feel like bursting with joy."

Shea looked at the money and at Vandy, as if to say, "The common denominator, eh? It makes everything O.K."

Well, he'd have to think it that was all. She had to find her ring before she could put her mind on anything else. She ran to the table the moment the door closed. She looked all over the floor, then when she had just about made up her mind she'd have to empty the carton and see if it had fallen into it, somehow, while she was packing, she had the bright idea of pulling the table out. And, sure enough, the ring dropped to the floor and winked up at her mischievously. It had evidently been jarred behind the table by the porter and got stuck in the paper cloth!

Vandy kissed the ring and put it on again. She started in a frenzy to dress. She was just about to leave when Shea came back into the room.

"I'm sorry to have kept you waiting so long," she apologized. "I'm ready now."

Shea came to her, took her in his arms. "Do you mind if we don't go out tonight, Vandy? There's so much I want to say to you."

"Mind!" Vandy said. "It's what I want more than anything else."

"Then why—" Shea began, bewildered. "Oh, I was dizzy with happiness, I guess," Vandy said. "All that money without any warning. It's going to be a nest egg for us, Shea. I'll put it in the bank."

Shea said haltingly, "About the money, Vandy—" Vandy held her breath. "I was just thinking," Shea continued. "Could you—would you want to come and live near the camp somewhere so we could see each other as often as possible? It would last quite a while if we lived carefully, and I think I'm going to be able to do a little writing now. Belling those two tunes kind of picked me up. Vail gave me a couple of ideas about some stuff he could use. He raised her hand, put his lips to her ring. "I'll never forget your voice when you told me I could take the ring, Vandy. It sounded as if you were parting with your right arm."

"My heart, you mean," Vandy corrected.

Shea held her close. "Some day I'll buy you so many jewels, this will be peanuts. How about it, Vandy, will you?"

"Yes," Vandy said. "Yes, Shea, but you've got to promise me one thing."

Shea grinned. "I know—no more horses."

"That's it—no more horses," Vandy told him solemnly.

Shea sighed deeply. "O.K., sweet. I promise. Well, get a piggy bank. Every time I get a hot tip, I'll put the money in the bank for Junior."

"Junior?" Vandy echoed. Shea's lips were firm, alive, against her cheek. "Well, it's an idea, Vandy—an inspiration, in fact. And you know me! All I need—"

"Yes," Vandy said, "I know!"

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CHRISTMAS WEDDING EVE

(Continued from Page 7)

She gave him a quivering smile. "Yes, our very special Christmas Eve! It really does, even though it belongs to this year." There were footsteps in the hall. Jan scrambled off Doug's knees just as her grandfather's housekeeper paused in the doorway.

"What is it, Mrs. Garri?" she asked.

"It's a telephone call for you, Miss Janice. Long distance."

"Oh," said Jan, "thank you. Excuse me for a minute, Doug." She added, "Why don't you turn on the radio? There should be some good music."

She went out into the hall, and down to the telephone.

"Hello!" she said expectantly, into the mouthpiece.

There was the usual delay about a connection, and then she heard a girl's voice. "Hello, Jan! This is Marion Harkness."

"Oh, Marion, how nice of you to call me! I love the wedding present you sent. I wrote you a note today."

"I had to call you. There's something I must tell you. It's just this. A man I know took me last night to see 'South with the Robins.' That's the play Eileen Shaw is starring in, and your Doug's sister is in it, too, you know."

"Yes," Jan returned, "of course I know. Did you like the play, Marion? Doug was there last night, too. Did you see him?"

"Certainly did," said Marion oddly. "That's what I'm trying to tell you. The man I was with knows Eileen Shaw, so he wanted to go backstage and see her. But when we got to her dressing room no one answered his knock, so he opened the door. That was when I saw Douglas Tyler."

"In Eileen Shaw's dressing room, you mean?" Jan asked slowly. "But he has known her for ages. So why shouldn't he be there?"

"He wasn't only there," Marion asserted, "he was kissing her! Just as we opened the door. It seemed pretty raw to me, two nights before his wedding. I thought you should know about it."

A strangled sound, half-sob, half-protest of the pain that was searing her, broke from Jan. She sprang to her feet, and went quickly back to the living room. She crossed straight to the radio, switched off the music. Then she turned to Doug. He was placing another log on the fire. Light from the flames played over the bronze strength of his face.

She spoke with an effort. "You met Marion Harkness in Philadelphia last November. She's working in New York, now."

Douglas straightened, gave her a searching glance. "I remember

Marion, and I never did like her. Was your call from her?"

"Yes. And, of course, you know what she told me. She saw you in Eileen Shaw's dressing room. You were kissing her!"

"But look here, darling, it wasn't the way you're making it sound! Actresses just naturally expect to be kissed. Just at that second, your friend happened to come into the room. Yet that kiss would have taken place; just as it did, if Marion Harkness and the man who was with her had been there all the time."

"If it was so casual, why didn't you tell me you had been in Eileen's dressing room? I asked if you had seen her, you know. But you deliberately led me to believe you had seen only her performance on the stage."

"I didn't tell you I was in her dressing room because you would have thought I wanted to see her, and I didn't. I went there only because—"

"Because?"

"Because I was getting her that part in the play," Doug said defensively. "As for that kiss, I never gave it another thought."

"But—Jan's voice broke. A little before she hurried on—"I'm giving it a thought! I don't want to marry a man who would kiss another girl, and then deceive me about it, the night before our wedding."

Douglas looked harrowed, but by no means beaten. "Jan, you're talking like a child. You don't know what you're saying!"

"Oh, yes," she said, her eyes looking straight at him. "I know what I'm saying. And I know that while you were there with Eileen, they were giving a lovely party for us both here. I was terribly disappointed because you couldn't come, but I thought I understood. I really believed you had stopped in New York because it was your one chance to see Sandra's play. And I still believed you when you implied that you'd only seen Eileen on the stage last night. But there's no use saying any more about it. Here's your ring, Doug."

With colourless fingers, she drew off the square-cut sapphire he had given her, and laid it on the table.

"Jan!" He strode forward and would have taken her in his arms, but she stepped back, placing a chair between them. "Darling, you can't do this thing! You've got to listen to me! You must know that Eileen Shaw is nothing to me and that I love you with everything there is in me!"

A stark laugh broke from Jan. "But what is there in you, Doug? I don't want your kind of love. I mean that, I won't change my mind. We just don't speak the same language, and now I know that we never could. So this is good-by."

She went out of the room and

up the stairs, feeling as though she were making her way through dark waters that were swirling higher each moment and would soon close over her.

It only she could fight long enough to convince Doug that he meant no more to her now than she meant to him!

And then, at the top of the stairs, she almost collided with Fort Westley.

"Hello, there!" he said eagerly. "I didn't expect to get a word alone with you tonight."

For a moment she stood arrested, looking intently up at him. Then she spoke with forced determination. "I can't talk with you now, Fort, but if you want to come back later tonight and . . . and ask me again to marry you, I might give you a different answer."

"Jan! Do you really mean it?" He tried to take her in his arms, but she drew back.

"No, I can't promise now! I must have time to think."

Jan heard the front door open and a girl's voice in the hall. Sandra was here. She couldn't see her now. She must get to her room.

Jan had no idea how long she stayed there in the window seat, but she had become cramped and cold when someone knocked on her door.

Reluctantly she rose, unfastened the door and opened it.

There, in the shadowy hall, stood a little old lady.

"May I come in and speak with you for a moment?" she asked gently.

Surprised, uncertain, Jan moved back. The visitor came into the room.

It had stopped snowing now and the room was filled with moonlight. Jan saw that the woman was wearing an old-fashioned bonnet, and a heavy shawl draped over a queer, full skirt.

"I hope," she continued, "that you won't mind if I ask you not to turn on the light. I don't want anyone else to see me."

"But . . . but why not?" Jan faltered. Then, "I'm sorry, but I'm afraid I don't recognise you."

The woman smiled faintly. "No, of course you don't. But I know you. You are Alvin Barrington's granddaughter. And I—well, a long time ago they used to call me Rosemary Wayne."

Jan's eyes widened with amazement. "Not the Rosemary Wayne who—"

"Who ran away from your grandfather sixty years ago tonight?" the woman finished for her. "Yes, I was that girl."

"But then, why are you here?" "I wanted to see the house again as I have always remembered it, made ready for a wedding on Christmas Day. And I've been living in Columbus for the

last two years. My husband died, and my daughter and I came to live where I could be near Alvin again, even though he wouldn't know that I was here."

"You mean—Jan tried to understand—"that you live just two miles away, in Columbus, and that grandfather doesn't know you're there? That Cousin Mary doesn't know it, either?"

"Yes, that's what I mean. I haven't met your grandfather since I've come back, but I'm sure he wouldn't recognise me after all this time. And your cousin Mary, I presume, is Mrs. Holwell. She knows me as Mrs. Livingston, who moved, two years ago, into the big white house before you turn down to the station."

"But why did you want to be near grandfather?"

"Because—the woman's voice was only a whisper—"I have loved him always. That is why, when I heard you quarrelling with that boy tonight, I had to come and beg you not to ruin your life as I ruined mine."

"I have," she went on to explain, "always kept the key to this house, and tonight I slipped in when there was no one in the hall. Then I hid in the closet, waiting for a chance to take a good look at the living room. But you were in there. I heard you breaking off your engagement the night before your wedding, just as I did. So I had to see you."

A feeling of shocked dismay held Jan speechless. She really had, tonight, done just what Rosemary Wayne did sixty years ago! There would be no wedding here tomorrow, just as there had been no wedding that other Christmas Day. And she had been too unhappy to give a thought to the way history was repeating itself. Not once had she remembered Rosemary and her grandfather. And now Rosemary, a frail old lady, was standing before her!

Childishly, she tried to defend herself. "But the quarrel you had with grandfather couldn't have been like the one I had with Doug. I found out that he . . . he just wasn't worth loving."

"Are you sure?" Rosemary asked quietly. "The explanation that your Doug gave you sounds perfectly reasonable to me. Yet you counted from it that he was not worth loving. Let me tell you, my child, that the love you gave him, without faith or trust or understanding, was worth very little indeed. I don't even feel sure that it was love."

Jan stood very still, her head high, but she felt as though someone had dashed cold water into her face. How dared this woman question her love for Douglas?

And yet, wasn't it true that she hadn't really tried to believe Doug, hadn't even listened to him? She had been hurt and angry—wasn't that all she had thought about?

At any rate, she had to admit that Rosemary was right about love without faith being valueless. Oh, yes, of course that was true! Perhaps, right now, Doug was thinking that she was the one who wasn't worth loving!

"Think it over, my dear," Rosemary said out of the silence. "Remember that I'm not too late. You can avoid all the regret that I have suffered. Go down to your Doug and be happy! And now I must go. My daughter is waiting for me outside in the car. I can trust you, I know, never to tell anyone that was here tonight. Good-by, child."

A moment later, the door closed behind Rosemary Livingston.

Jan dashed into the bathroom, bathed her face, powdered her nose, and ran a comb through her shining hair. Then she ran down the stairs. Only one thing mattered—to find Douglas before he left the house.

In the lower hall Mrs. Holwell was rearranging some holly.

"Where's Doug?" Jan asked anxiously.

"He's in the living room with Fort Westley," Mary Holwell said with a smile. "You didn't think he'd run away, did you?"

Jan drew a breath of relief. He was still here!

She started on toward the living room; then paused to spy casually. "I meant to ask you about some people who moved to Columbus. Cousin Mary. Their name is Livingston. There's an elderly mother and her daughter. You know them, of course?"

"No, I certainly don't," her cousin answered flatly. "When were they supposed to have moved there?"

"Why, about two years ago. You must know them. You know everybody in Columbus."

"I should say I do. After all, it's only a village. And I can tell you right now that there's nobody there by that name."

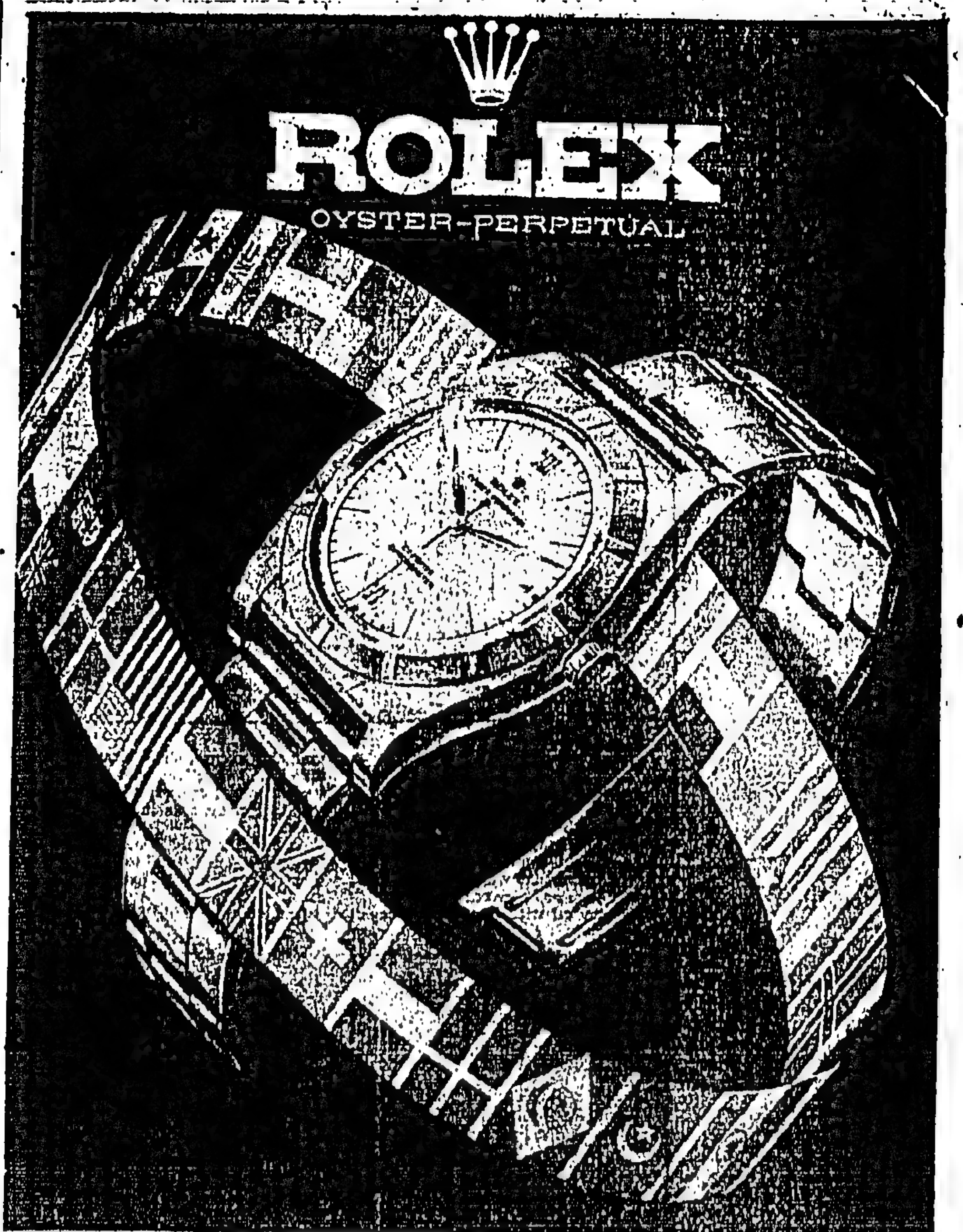
Jan started at her. "But there has to be! Mrs. Livingston's a frail-looking little old lady."

"Well, there are plenty of frail old ladies in Columbus, but they've been there ever since I can remember. There's nobody there by the name of Livingston. Just where were they supposed to live?"

"In that big white house just this side of station. The Martins used to live there."

"My goodness, child," said Mary Holwell, "that house has been vacant for ten years!"

"Know ye the love of Mary,
Know ye the angels' song,
Find ye the way to Christmas Day
Where hearts sing all day long!"



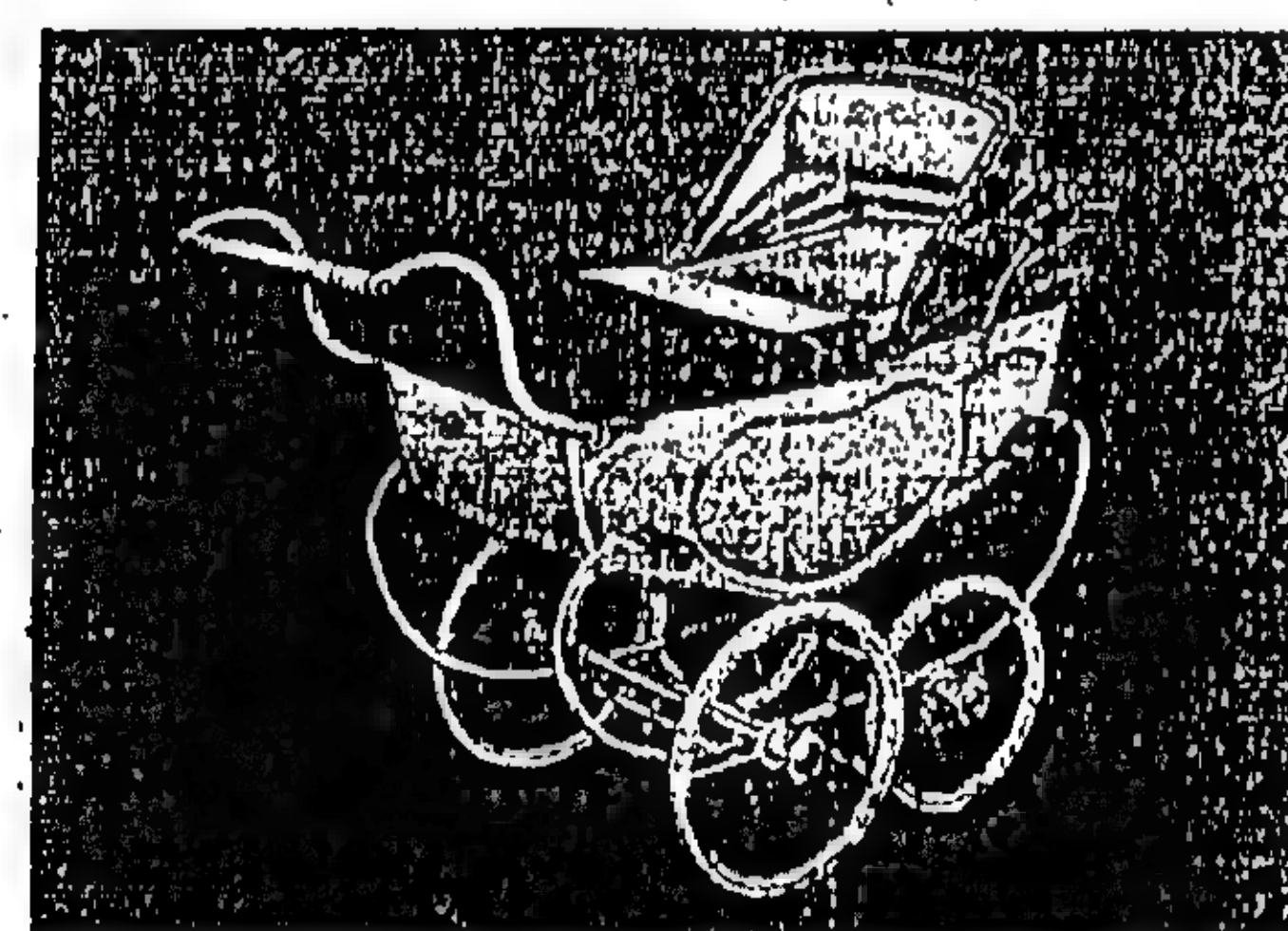
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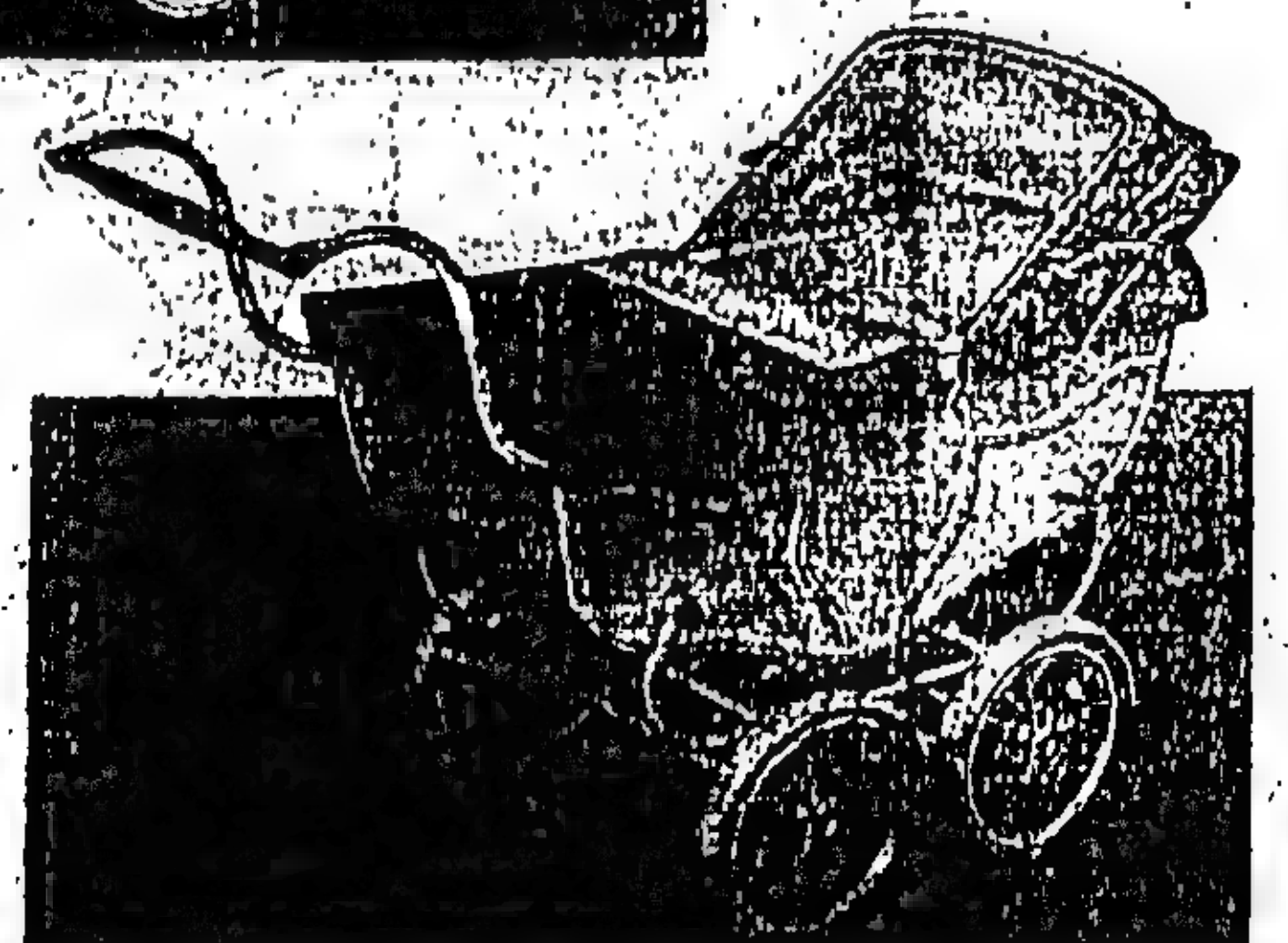
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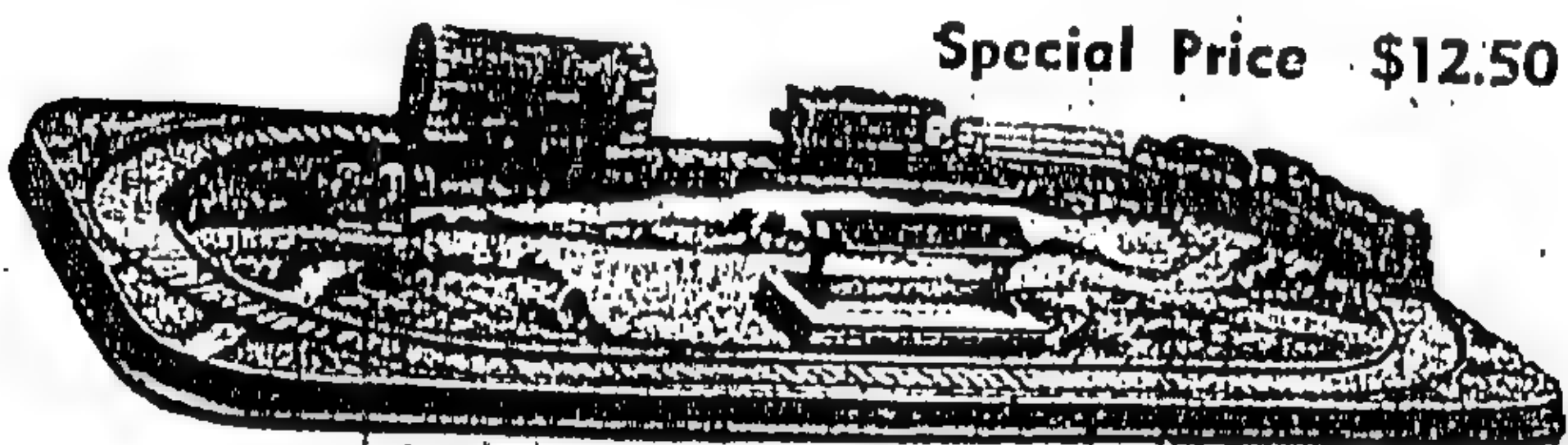
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Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

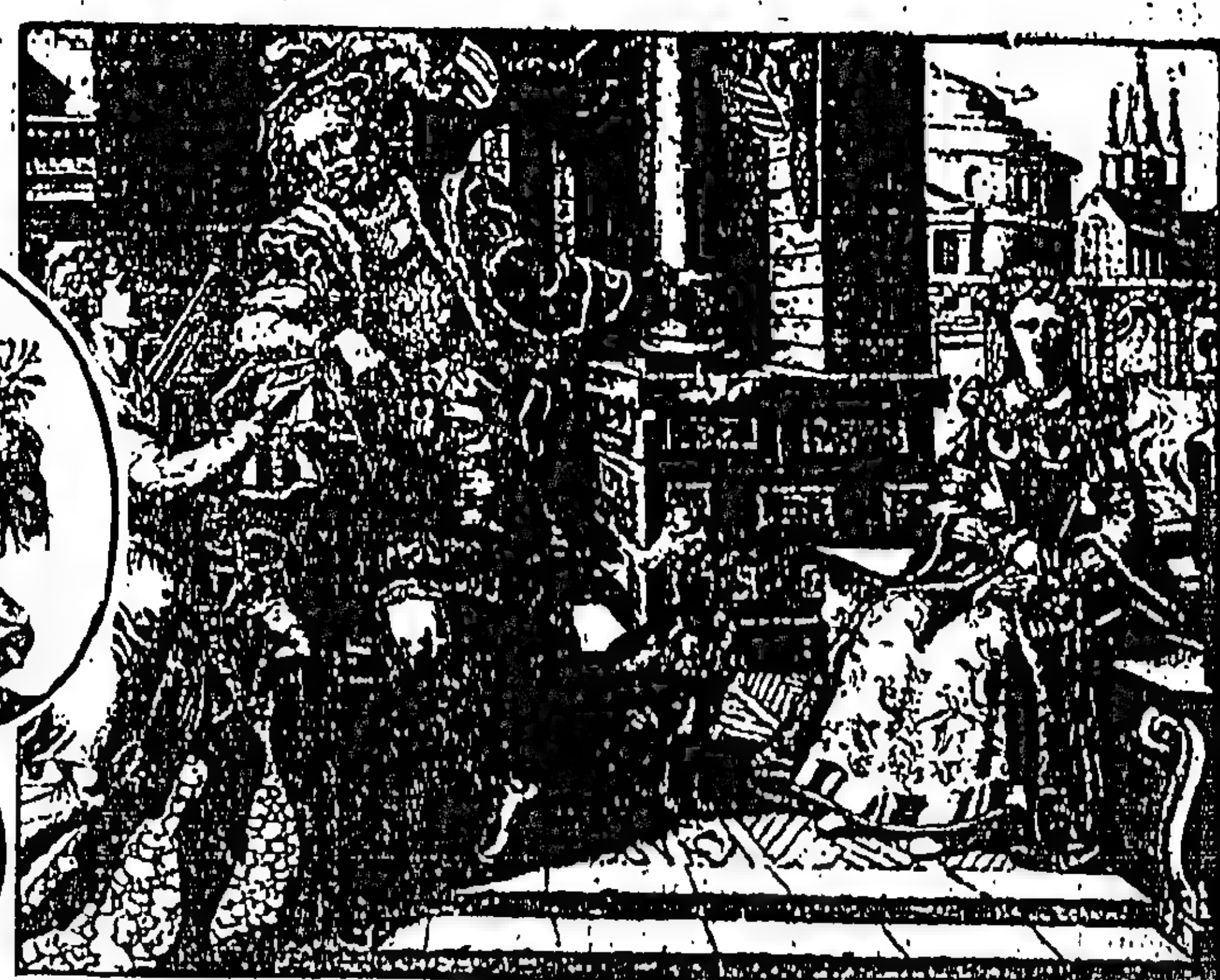
And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

And another said, I have mar-



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ried a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.—Luke XIV:16-24.



The Prodigal Son: Forgiveness for the Sinners

And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

And he went, and joined himself to

a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee.

And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

A PRINT-COLLECTOR, grubbing in an old Paris bookshop, recently made the find of a lifetime—an almost complete set of perhaps the most famous of all illustrations of some of the most popular of all Biblical stories—the Parables. The illustrations, designed and engraved on copper between 1878 and 1885, represent the work of the best line-artists of that school in that day, notably M. Heemskerck.

Favorite Parables in Newly Discovered Masterpieces

Previously, only three sets had been known to be in existence, one in the New York Public Library, one in England and the other in Italy, but none of these sets was complete. In the new collection are some not previously known. It is generally agreed that the Parables have never been better illustrated. Here, in this page, eight of the engravings, chosen from the groups illustrating three favorite Parables, are reproduced for the first time in four centuries.



And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing.

And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because

he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in; therefore came his father out, and intreated him.

And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressing I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might be merry with my friends:

But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.—Luke XV: 11-32.



The Talents: Use Your Power

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several

ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those

servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliverdest unto me two talents: behold, I have gained unto me two talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping

where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not strawed:

Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and I should have received mine

own with usury.

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping, and gnashing of teeth.—Matthew XXV: 14-30.

CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE SKY

(Continued from Page 2)

Once again, he was gripped by an old heart-tearing pain which went wrenching its way through him and making his mind and body silent and rigid. Why should he feel like that? He hated the girl, didn't he?

But still the image of Spray the first time he'd ever seen her standing on the boat deck of the Rex at the start of the trip, so long ago, was something which could never quite be erased from his mind. She had been looking out to sea, and her cheek had a lovely curve. And when she turned around, he'd known that never again in all the world would he see anyone so hauntingly lovely.

When he saw that there was a green carnation behind the lapel of her jacket, his heart flew up like a skylark. For now he knew that seeing her like this wasn't going to be all. Each of the contest winners had agreed by mail to wear a green carnation when they went on board ship. That meant he was going to spend six whole months in the company of this girl.

Any beautiful sight he'd ever seen as a child made silent but very lovely music always came to his mind. He believed all music composers were like that. He thought that was the way immortal music was born.

But when he saw Spray, all the air became flooded with the sound of the most gorgeous music he'd ever heard or imagined. The ship's orchestra was playing something or other, but that wasn't it. This was music of his own. And it was a tone description of what this girl's beauty meant to him as a man. More than that, even, was the deep, highly personal knowledge that he'd found a girl made in the exact image of all those long dreams in his unhappy childhood.

Her name was Spray, as it happened. She had a last name, too. It was Newhall. But, somehow, he never thought of her as having any name but Spray. Flowers, sea ferns, brutal veils, waterfalls, green leaves, goodness—they were all there in her name which suited her so well.

It had seemed to him that he'd never known any sort of joy before. And those days on shipboard went whizzing past like brief, enchanted seconds. There'd been hurries, whispered flirtations and a fleeting kiss or two on the boat deck. And, of course, he had Spray in his arms as they danced to the music of the ship's orchestra.

"Tomorrow I'll tell her how I feel and what she means to me," he'd promise himself.

But all the time during the trip from New York to Naples, there'd been little chance for him and Spray to be alone together. And,

from Naples, they had set off almost immediately on the plane trip into Africa which had ended with the crash.

Their pilot had been killed. And before they could extinguish the fire, the navigation papers and flight log were burned. But they had been able to save all their equipment, even to those rubber trees and villas. At first they had thought they were very lucky, but they soon had to realise that they were hopelessly lost in the heart of a very hostile jungle.

Nights when they were too tired to work, they'd sit by their short-wave radio and listen to what was being done to find them. But as time went on, their names were mentioned less and less often.

Then, finally, at one o'clock in the morning on a moonlight night, when it was only about seven back home, they'd listened to a radio commentator telling the world that all hope had been abandoned for the six young music lovers who'd taken off in a plane to study African jungle trends in swing music.

"But that's not so. We're not given up for lost," declared Spray. "We're just crowded off the air by the international situation. Don't worry, they're still looking for us. My brothers would never give up. But let's live each day as if we expected to be here a long, long time, forever maybe. Let's have a little empire here that we can be proud of when they come and find us. And believe me, it'll be soon. I'm sure of it." There'd been a glow in her eyes, which had taken some of the fear away from them all.

"Spray," Martin said to her, when they were finally alone, "do you really think that we'll get out of here soon?"

For a minute, in that soft light, her eyes seemed to measure him, and then she smiled. "No, I don't think you do, either. But we mustn't ever tell the others that. Martin, we mustn't take their hopes away from them."

"Oh, Spray, Spray," he murmured.

He knew all his heart was in his voice, and he thought he saw a look of challenge in her face. Looking like this at her made him feel torn apart inside. She must know by now how he felt toward her, even though no word had been spoken. There'd never been anyone else for him. She must feel the same way. If not, what either of them would have chosen. But here they were, and it might be forever. Just to look at her by the white light of the moon, in that perfumed jungle night, was to have his arms ache and his heart pound like a savage drum.

He had to have her in his arms all the while, maddening slenderness of hers. His long-

dened yearning for her and the knowledge of the hopelessness of their position had gotten the best of him.

But the girl in his arms had not been as he had expected her to be. She wasn't the girl who'd been so sweet and trusting back on the boat. Instead, she was a struggling, fighting tiger cut of a girl. And her face, as she struggled away from him, had been hard with hate and fear even in the tender light of the moon.

"You can't! Don't you realize we mustn't?" she cried.

"You don't need to fight like that," he said to her, as he released her. "I have my answer now."

And he had, too. A shipboard romance which was over and done with. That was all he was to her now. His masculine side had received a mortal wound. That was when his love for her had ended.

He'd meant nothing to her, but still there'd been something killed in the depths of her blue-grey eyes as they stared into his. And that look made him more angry than sorry.

"I thought you understood that now you and I could only be friends," she said. Her voice was slow and sad.

But his own voice was swift and hard as the pounce of a jungle hawk. He purposely made his words insufferably cheap and insulting. "Sorry, I thought what you said about our not getting home was an invitation. Odd that you feel like this, because I thought on the boat you'd be easy to make. But since we can't be friendly, let's be enemies. I want that much, anyway."

But Spray had refused to be an enemy. He'd had to do his besting by himself. And he'd done a great deal of it. After all, he had cause. First love should be as easily destroyed in him as if it had been a trouble-some pest. And now that they were about to get out of here, he'd never be able to fall in love with anyone else.

Finally he joined the others by the fire.

"Well, folksies," he said, coming up to the group as an imitation of a wild-western female named Tizzle whom they'd used to laugh at over their shortwave radio set when they'd first come here. That was before the two fighting elephants had come and trampled their set into powder, thereby cutting the last frail cord which held them to the world.

"Folksies—hello, folksies," repeated Ann. She remembered all right, and her face lit up even more than it was already by the night's excitement. "Just think of it—radio again! It just doesn't seem possible. How I have missed them."

"I would have been worse, though, if we hadn't been able to hear that one-last broadcast," said Spray.

"Yes," put in Jo, "that speech from England promising the world peace."

"Peace in our time," went on Spray softly. "Those were wonderful words for me to hear. If we hadn't heard them, I would have been worrying all the time about my brothers."

"Almost any time now we'll hear the drums start up down in the compound," said Jo. His voice was reverent. "And that'll mean they are practically at our front door."

Yes, thought Martin. It was almost all over. There wouldn't be any more of these nights of moonlit splendour and jungle fragrance to have to endure. He shuddered, then, at a secret wish. He wanted to just once more place his lips on Spray's delicately curved ones. And he hated himself for that wish.

It was like being a traitor to himself. "Touch of chili, Martin?" asked Rod.

"Yes, I'm just beginning to realize how glad I'll be to get out of this fever hole, this mess of spinach." His voice was bitter with hate. "That's what this place has always meant to me, you know. Just a platter of particularly repulsive, green-black spinach that someone left too long out of the ice box. And we've been six poor little fiddle ants crawling about in the bottom of the dish beneath it all."

"But his mind's eye had a quick, flashing memory picture of this same jungle at sunrise. Morning in jungle land. Every tree frond, every broad leaf, sparkling like diamonds. Deep green of leaves and black of dew-drenched three trunks. The lovely snow of the falls above the bathing pool. Even that looked newly made."

The bright butterflies like moving flowers, a strolling pair of giraffes or a group of barking, trotting zebras. These animals all seemed so clean and new. It should have been for him the freshest, gladdening picture that ever met his eyes. But, instead, it seemed as dull to him as an unpleasantly coloured picture in a geography book, until—the sound of Spray's laugh and the rapid sound of her running feet came to his ears everything would change for him.

Just the sight of Spray in her bathing suit would make it suddenly all so wonderful. She would have her white cap swinging from her hand, and her long, streaming-out behind her. Just to see her like that, so madly gay, young and carefree, would make the scene come alive for him, even though he'd never consciously admit to himself that her presence could still colour his world for him and bring it from ugly flatness into a beautiful perspective.

He would feel, then, that it was the first morning in all the



Just to look at her by the white light of the moon, in that perfumed jungle night, was to have his arms ache and his heart pound like a savage drum.

world, and that she must be the first girl who had ever been created. She would be so lovely with her marvellous eyes that looked as if they, too, had been washed with dew, with her thick, vital hair that was such an amazingly beautiful colour so full of life, colour and vitality. You could see rainbows in Spray's hair, too, sometimes.

So lovely, so lovely. At such times as these, it would seem to him that he could catch the faintest sort of echo of his lost music. Those heavenly tones, wild, illusive, and forever haunting. And then they would suddenly be gone as completely as if a door had closed on them.

"Spray, Spray!" His heart was still crying out to her even now, on this night, while he was willing his face to fall into a frown and his voice to be hard and hateful. "The jungle has been a miserable place," he continued. "The only good thing about it for me is that it will be good to get away from."

"But we've had fun," Spray's voice was almost pleading.

"Fun!" He managed to put bitterness into his laugh. It had been wonderful. He knew it now, when he was on the verge of losing it all. Here, within the magic of this clearing, he had had the only real happiness, security and coziness he'd ever known. Nice people, fine talk, good food, work, pets, music and flowers. And a beautiful girl to look at. That had been what he had wanted more than anything else in the world as a child.

Spray, by candlelight, when they would all be dressed for dinner, and the wind in the fronds of the rubber trees and the distant complaint of the jungle animals would come to them faintly through the bamboo blinds as a sort of music. Spray in the green and rose light of dawn. Spray, in the hot, steaming, shimmering light of noon. Starlight and moonlight. What would they ever mean to him now?

"You're shivering again, Martin." Ann's voice was kind, but it brought him away from his thoughts with a rude jolt.

"Yes, I feel sick," said Martin, as he felt his nerves suddenly go slack. He wasn't going to keep those thoughts of his locked up inside himself any more. "And if you all want to know what's the matter—"

"Touch of malaria," interrupted Spray crisply. "You don't need to tell us. Go get some quinine."

"Listen," said Jo, "do you hear them? I do, I think."

He was right. There were drums far in the distance which were starting to beat, first so softly that they were no more than the whisper of heartbeats. And then the sound began coming to their ears, swelling, loud and triumphant.

It was very exciting. Far more exciting, even, than they had imagined it would be. First of all came the black bearers, advancing with huge packing cases balanced on their heads, and then the three white men, looking like sunhelmed explorers in geographical magazines.

You watched them enter the clearing under the bright light of the moon, and you had the strange feeling that this exact thing had happened many times before, not in your life, but in the lives of other white people who'd been lost in the jungle.

You wondered if you shouldn't say something very flip when you were shaking hands with these men about its being good to see a new face. But, with a catch in your throat, you realised that it was too good to even talk about.

"Well, well, quite an establishment you have here. We didn't expect to see anything like this," said a newspaper correspondent named Bantling, who seemed to be the spokesman for the trio.

"It's quite a surprise for us."

"I'm sure it is," observed a younger man named Sterling. "Well, it does show that Americans have the right stuff. Went on Bantling. And that is certainly good to know in times like these."

"Times like these?" That was Spray, and her voice was questioning. "Please don't tell me it is still hard times back home? The man's eyes narrowed suddenly. 'Haven't you kids got a short-wave radio?'"

"We had a radio," answered Martin, "before it got trampled by the elephants right after we came."

Mr. Bantling's face was perfectly blank for a minute. "That was back in 1938, wasn't it? Say, this is practically beyond belief. Kids, you look so young, and yet you are six Rip Van Winkles. Gosh, what a title that will make for a feature article! What a story!"

"I wish you'd please stop that ravaging and tell us the news," Spray's voice was crisp with irritation.

"I'm sorry, Miss Newhall," said Mr. Bantling. "For a minute the dramatic aspects of the situation almost overcame me. Let's all sit down together. There's a lot of history for you to catch up on."

Hugh Bantling was a dramatic talker. But what he had to tell needed little high spotting. He told all of it, up to Pearl Harbour and an all-out war for the United States.

"It's a big pill to take, isn't it?" asked Hugh Bantling. "You see, for us it has happened fairly slowly over a period of years and so, in a way, we have been able to absorb it as it came."

None of the six said a word. "Many a time I've wondered just how this same thing would strike someone if it had to come all at once," went on Bantling. "But it had never occurred to me that I would ever be breaking the news to people who were young and modern, and just starting out in their lives."

"Three sleeping beauties, you three gals," said Sterling, as he looked at the girls. And then he looked at Spray more closely. "But you aren't any sleeping beauty. You're flying right on the beam with your motor purring on all twenty-four. Tell you right now, Miss Newhall, you're in my corner. I'd give you the green light any time, because you've got more zing and live than any other little cooker with gasser I ever saw before. Strictly station wagon—I mean that."

Spray frowned.

"It's all right, Miss Newhall," Bantling assured her. "He's perfectly sane. It's the new slang. But that'll be the least of your troubles. He's only trying to tell you that he considers you quite O.K."

"Oh," said Spray. "Well, thanks, Mr. Sterling. Once I learn the language, perhaps we can—"

"Don't worry, I'll give you the pitch. I mean, I can explain to you as we go along," Sterling told her eagerly.

Martin felt suffocated by a black fog of jealousy which was sweeping over him. What was the matter with him, anyway? He hated Spray, didn't he?

"You've got quite a clearing here," said Mr. Bantling then. He hadn't spoken before. Mr. Bantling was the type of man who looked as if he should be wearing a neat business suit and be sitting in a skyscraper office.

"What are those trees? I've seen trees like that in pictures. Even by moonlight they look very familiar."

"Look here, what's cookin'?" burst in Sterling. His eyes began to glaze with excitement. "Look here, give out slowly. Don't tell me—all-at-once—that those are rubber trees!"

"Of course they are," said Martin. His voice was curt.

(Continued on Page 14)

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SHORT STORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13.

CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE SKY

and her face in that light was very quiet and demure. But he was sure she'd said that.

For him, as he sat there, dazed from his overwhelming joy, it was as if all the torment and turmoil within his mind were suddenly ended. He had found, but only a very short time ago, that the whole world was at war. He'd have to go to war, too. But his own private world was suddenly full of a deep peace.

He understood everything now. He had all come clear for him. On that other jungle night, when she had said to him that she didn't believe they'd get out of there soon, she had been exactly what he had meant.

Spray had thought it would be sometime, while for him it had been never. She'd believed in the ability of her brothers to find her. She'd been as sure that they wouldn't. And she wanted everything to be fair and square between them, and for them to be properly married.

Up until their jungle experience, he'd led the life of a too sheltered, very insidious young artist. Spray had been in closer touch with life than he. And she knew that they couldn't have even one less here in this jungle without starting out together on the sort of romantic voyage from which there is no return. Stupid of him not to have understood. There'd always been too much of her, too much of her beauty, of her face, it was a Christmas peace. That was the only way to describe it.

And now he could hear a lovely soft music playing. Note by note, he could follow it in all its fascinating complexity and know exactly what was going to come next. Why, it was his overture! The music that meant Spray to him. He had it safe and sound. He would never lose it again.

The moon had come out from behind its black cloud. The star was gone, but his two wishes had come true. A magical chat-tered sleepily in one of the trees, and as he leaned in adoration toward the beautiful girl and the sleeping Christmas baby, he knew that he was truly the happiest, most fortunate man in the world.

THE END

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"A lot of those trees have just reached maturity," added Spray. "Most of them are being tapped twice a day. And some of our blacks have been collecting and curing wild rubber for us ever since we came. We've got a lot—"

"Holy mackerel!" exclaimed Sterling.

"Well—Spray's voice was explanatory—"I know it may seem a little futile to you, pitiful even. But we needed something constructive to do. So the six of us went in for it. And now all of us know everything there is to know about the growing of rubber. We could get a job anywhere in the world where it grows."

"Futile, pitiful!" Banling's voice gently mocked her. "You have probably done more for your country than any other how we need that rubber!"

"But aren't we in the Belgium Congo?" asked Martin. "And haven't Belgium—"

"No, you're in English-owne Nigeria, which is rather different, and don't worry about the English and the Americans not being able to get that rubber out. Can be done, will be done, will be done. But now you must tell us about yourselves."

As Rod and Jo went on with their story, Martin suddenly knew that his jungle was an entirely different place from theirs. For the very first time he was realizing that to them it had not been a morning world of greenness and freshness. Perhaps that was because they hadn't had his ability to connect it up with the personality of Spray.

As he listened to the talk of Rod and Jo, Martin saw that, to them, the jungle had always seemed deadly and dangerous. Their jungle had been false, flamboyant and flaunting.

"The jungle people know the seven deadly sins the white man knows," said Jo. "And then seven more far deadlier. Dark tortures, cannibalism, unspeakable crimes, voodoo, charms for the knowledge of which these black people barter their immortal souls in order to obtain personal revenge."

"All that seems very incredible, especially that selling your own soul for—"

"But, of course, they have come back and told much the same story. Still, I don't believe it."

"But it can't be stranger to you than the news you had for us," said Martin, coming to the defence of Rod and Jo. "After all, maybe we don't really believe your story."

"But all you have to do is listen to one news flash over our short-wave radio here," Banling returned. "Here, Martin," he said, beckoning to his head bearer, "set up the radio."

Eagerly, the six of them crowded around. But what they first heard was music instead of words.

"It should be Christmas carols," said Spray.

"It's coming from Rome, as it

WHERE MAN'S CHRISTMAS ASPIRATION IS FINDING EXPRESSION

By C. G. Chenovix-Trench

Peace on earth is still the Christmas prayer of Western man, but wholesale destruction is as likely to be his fate on Christmas day as on any other day in the calendar.

The brotherhood of Man? An ever-receding mirage, say those who see the chessboard of life wholly black. But conceivably, they are mistaken. It may be that here and there on earth mankind is approaching the distant ideal by a winding road.

If peace on earth is as yet no more than a dream, we British are undoubtedly moving in the direction of a more kindly, Christian attitude towards our humble cousins, the animals.

The evidence of this trend is unmistakable. It is to be found, first, in the recent upsurge of interest in the wild life of Great Britain. Despite the desperate shortage of paper, the newspapers and periodicals find room for articles on our native birds, beasts, reptiles and insects, and there is no bottom to the demand for books on natural history subjects.

Disapproval has spread even to the making of collections of bird skins and eggs and in many a village it is definitely bad form to rob nests. School boys are encouraged to find them, leave them undisturbed and write essays about them. Quite the most unpopular individual in a certain neighbourhood is a man who shoots every rare bird he comes across, for his collection. He is obliged to indulge his hobby furtively, as a drunkard seeks behind closed doors.

Meanwhile, by some mysterious telepathy, the wild creatures of these islands seem to have sensed this change of heart on the part of their former persecutors, and to be responding to it. Some door in nature, it has been observed, appears to be turning on a hinge.

To the one hundred-and-fifty millions of Buddhists on the globe all life is equally sacred, and the Ceylon government have recently signalled their independence by forbidding the taking of wild life throughout the island. In this, the first Christmas of their millennium, the shadow of a great fear will have lifted from the lives of the shy haunts of the jungle, over an area of twenty-five thousand square miles. From elephants to the tiny mouse-deer, they will lie down and feed in peace, undisturbed by the crack of rifle and whine of expanding bullet, and there is not for a term but for all time.

Peace on earth, not for man only, but for all sentient things! In Ceylon, perhaps, a step has been taken towards the fulfilment of the Christian prayer.

Ceylon's Lead

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More Than Sentiment

In all this there is more than a passing wave of sentiment. An idea is gaining ground that, in the past, our native fauna, even the scarcer, more beautiful insects, have had a raw deal. As a result, the London policeman of today holds up the traffic in the heart of the Empire to allow the wild ducks to escort their broods from the Serpentine to St. James's Park—a spectacle which at the height of a world war, prompted a visiting foreign statesman to remark that against such a people Hitler had not a dog's chance.

It is significant of the times that the Church is now lending its authority in support of the

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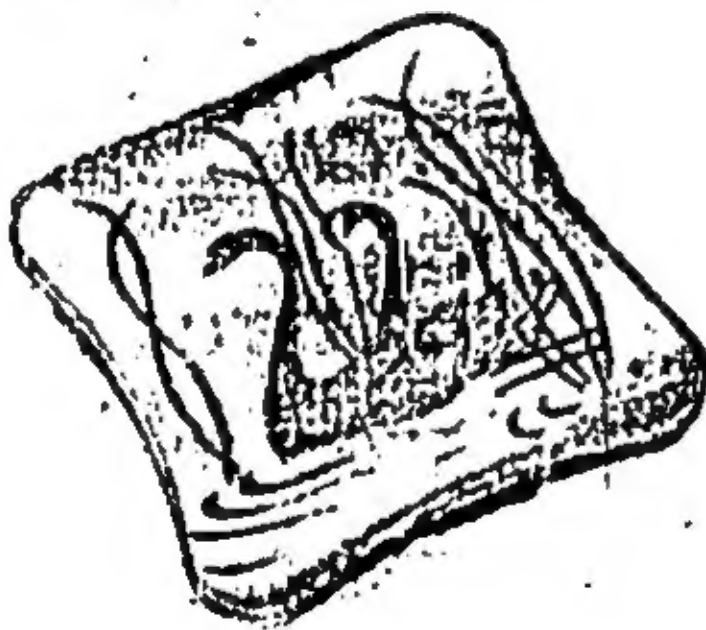


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WHY DOES THE YEAR BEGIN ON JANUARY FIRST?

The legal and historical year begins on January 1st. The school and university year begins at the end of September or the beginning of October. A farmer in the northern hemisphere will tell you that his year begins some time in early March. Each business has its business year, and many of them do not start on January 1st. There seems no reason why the year should not, for example, start on June 1st or August 1st.

The year is the cycle of agricultural operations, and if you sow or reap at the wrong times, your harvest will be a failure. The moon is the most obvious phenomenon that recurs fairly frequently and quite regularly in nature; and before they cultivated at any fruits, most peoples reckoned their time by moon.

But a lunar month is about 29½ days, and so a lunar year has only 354 days, 11½ days less than our solar year. The lunar year slipped back compared with the seasons, until after about 32½ years it had come full circle to its original position. This caused great trouble for Red Indian time reckoning, and they were forced sometimes to repeat a month (the first one of a double they called a "lost" or "forgotten" month) and sometimes to omit one.

Same Problem

The great valley civilisation of the Nile, the Egyptians, the Indians and the Hoangho found themselves in the same difficulty. Their agriculture was dependent on the rising of the Nile in mid-June, and they noticed that the Dog Star, which they called Sothis, had its heliacal rising just when the Nile flood was due; that is to say, in mid-June Sothis rose in the East at the moment when the sun set in the West. This became the beginning of their year, which consisted of twelve "months" of 30 days each, with five extra days at the end of the year. There were no leap years.

The Egyptian year was later adopted by the Greeks and, like so much else, taken over from them by the Romans. Their months, however, were not the Egyptian ones. They started their year on March 1. But the Romans, the heirs of the Egyptian Republic, were publicly installed in office each year on January 1; as this was, so to speak, the beginning of the official year, they made it, in 153 B.C., the beginning of the civil year as well. We have taken over this order of the months and use the Roman names for them.

The so-called leap year was, as with most peoples till then, in the hands of priests, the priests of the sun, the so-called Pontifices. They were far less skilled than the Egyptians, and by the time of Caesar the calendar was in such a muddle that the winter months occurred in the autumn. Caesar was concerned with the welfare of his people and on the advice of an

astronomer, Sosigenes, he introduced that remarkable invention, the leap year. He also decreed that the year 47 B.C. should have three extra months, making 445 days in all, so that the calendrical winter should happen in the real winter. The Romans called it the annus confusionis, the year of confusion.

With the collapse of the Roman empire, tremendous confusion set in. The centre of civilisation gradually shifted to Byzantium. The adherents of the Egyptian religion started their year in June. The Jews started theirs in the

By J. KALMER

autumn and reckoned their years from 3761 B.C. according to their method, to which date they assigned the creation of the world. The Romans began their year in January and reckoned as above mentioned from the foundation of Rome, which they assumed to have been in 753 B.C.

The gradual establishment of the Christian religion throughout the broken fragments of the Roman empire did not at first reduce the confusion. The most important function of a calendar for the Christians was to fix the date of Easter. The decision of the Council of Nicaea, settling the rule Easter is to be celebrated on a Sunday, established a fixed point in the Christian calendar, from which all other movable feasts are calculated. But when the year was to begin, and how they were to be numbered was still unsettled.

There was a further source of trouble. Caesar's year worked out at 365¼ days exactly, while the solar year is just over 11 minutes shorter. Once again the calendar was slowly slipping forward compared with the earth's journey round the sun.

The final modification of the calendar, which corrected this, was due to Pope Gregory XIII. He decreed the adoption of a system invented by one Aloysius Lilius, an astronomer and physician of Naples, who died before he saw his idea universally applied. The difference between the true year and the calendrical year had by then mounted to 10 days. Pope Gregory decreed in March 1582 that October 5 of that year be reckoned as October 15; this brought the calendar back to its proper place. He also ordained that three leap years in every four hundred years should be omitted, so that for example 1700, 1800, 1900, were not leap years, while 2000 will be one.

The Gregorian calendar was not adopted everywhere at the same time. Great Britain introduced it in an Act of Parliament in 1752, which also provided that the day after September 2, 1752, should be September 14, for by that time the difference had increased to 11 days. Another reform was also incorporated in the Act; the be-

lieved that the year should be declared only thirty years earlier, the Julian calendar would still have been in use. As it is, the United States have always used our present adequate year. But the subdivisions of our calendar are not regular nor very useful. The months are not equal, and if January 1 was a Wednesday in 1947, it will be a Thursday in 1948.

This is due to the fact that the week, the month and the year do not fit together for their lengths are incommensurable. In the past this mattered not so much; but it is much more obvious today that a simple and easy calendar would be a great advantage in our modern world, which is complex enough without such avoidable difficulties.

Desborough Plan

The most popular calendar reform today proposes very few changes indeed. It is known as the Desborough Plan after its inventor, and has recently been strongly recommended by the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science for adoption as a world calendar. The familiar 12 months are retained, but the number of days is arranged so that they follow a uniform and regular pattern. They are grouped in four quarters, and the first month in each quarter—that is January, April, October—has 31 days, while the others all have 30. That makes 364 days, 91 is each quarter. The 365th day is to be added at the end of the year as a "world holiday", or perhaps reckoned as December 31. The arrangement of leap years would be the same as at present, but leap days would be another "world holiday" half-way through the year between June and July, or else June 31. The "world holidays" are not included in any week or given the name of a week-day. In this way the arrangement of weeks is the same in every year; the first day of each quarter is a Sunday, and each month has 28 working days. Easter would always fall on April 8.

The year 1950 has been selected for the introduction of the world calendar, if it is adopted, as January 1, any will in any case be a Sunday. Calendar makers, who would no longer need to print new diaries every year, might not approve of the world calendar. But to everyone else a simple, uniform calendar would prove a blessing.

LULLABY Short Story By ELIZABETH BERRIDGE

She had never been quite sure about it, but he was convinced. "It's a great idea, a marvellous idea," he said, "but of course if you don't want to come out with me when I'm on leave, just say so."

So she had given in. She always did. Life with him was precarious; always had been. She had sudden terrible fears of him leaving her. Suddenly walking from the room, out of the house, knowing he had gone on to some other life and needed no one. "It's being in the air," so much, doing so much flying, she thought, "I must do something to you." Hanging on to a cloud and never coming down—only of course you fell through a cloud. When they had the child it was better, for a time. Then the juggling began. She could keep them both spinning equally, dexterously, for a time, father and son, son and father, but then her hand would become tired, the trick fail. This was such a time, so she said yes, and they went to a friend of his who had cashed in on the pre-war vanity of people who wanted their voices recorded.

"Only a few left," he said. Wisfully, he looked over the wax discs. "Did I tell you the story of the man who was too nervous to propose on the spot?"

"Yes," he was told. "On." He was obviously disappointed. "Well, what are you going to do?"

It was explained. "Why, that's wonderful!" he exclaimed. "That's — come on, let's hear you." "They tried it out that evening and sat listening in the next room. The child was in his cot, but was talking to himself in a queer half-language of his own. It was a little, chuckle and made astonished noises. Then the record was started. "Go to sleep, darling," came his mother's voice from the black box. There was a pause, then, "Hush now, bye-byes," the baby stopped murmuring and settled down. Then the voice said: "Everything's all right. Mamma's here." The child seemed to be asleep, but they let the record run to the end. It won't disturb him," she whispered, and as the voice sang, a little

self-consciously, spinning from under the needle. "What's to be done with the baby son?"

A little breathlessly the record stopped, clicked. The next room was silent.

"There!" he said, triumphant, "that's all right, isn't it? He only needs to hear your voice and off he goes." She smiled. "It did seem a good idea. "Come on," he said, "let's go."

They did it once or twice after that, until he had to return to his station. But he couldn't forget. "You must make one for me," he wrote. But somehow she never did. She hated her voice spinning off the black disc, she felt as if her whole being was caught beneath the sharp needle dragged round like a piece of fluff in the shining grooves.

When he next came on leave he said: "Sunderland tells me we've got to see that film at the Empire. It's tremendous. "The Empire?" she said. "It's a long way."

He looked at her with the peculiarly blank expression he assumed when he was determined to do something in the face of any obstacle. "We'll see the record," he said. "We'll be home by ten if we go early."

So that evening she put the baby earlier, and they set the record off as they went out of the door. In the hall he stopped suddenly and caught her in his arms. "You're sure you feel all right about leaving him, darling?" She laughed. Her fear was always there, but it must not spoil his evening; and the idea of him being worried somehow strengthened her. "He'll be all right," she said. "He'll be all right," she said. "Don't worry." Together they walked down the road.

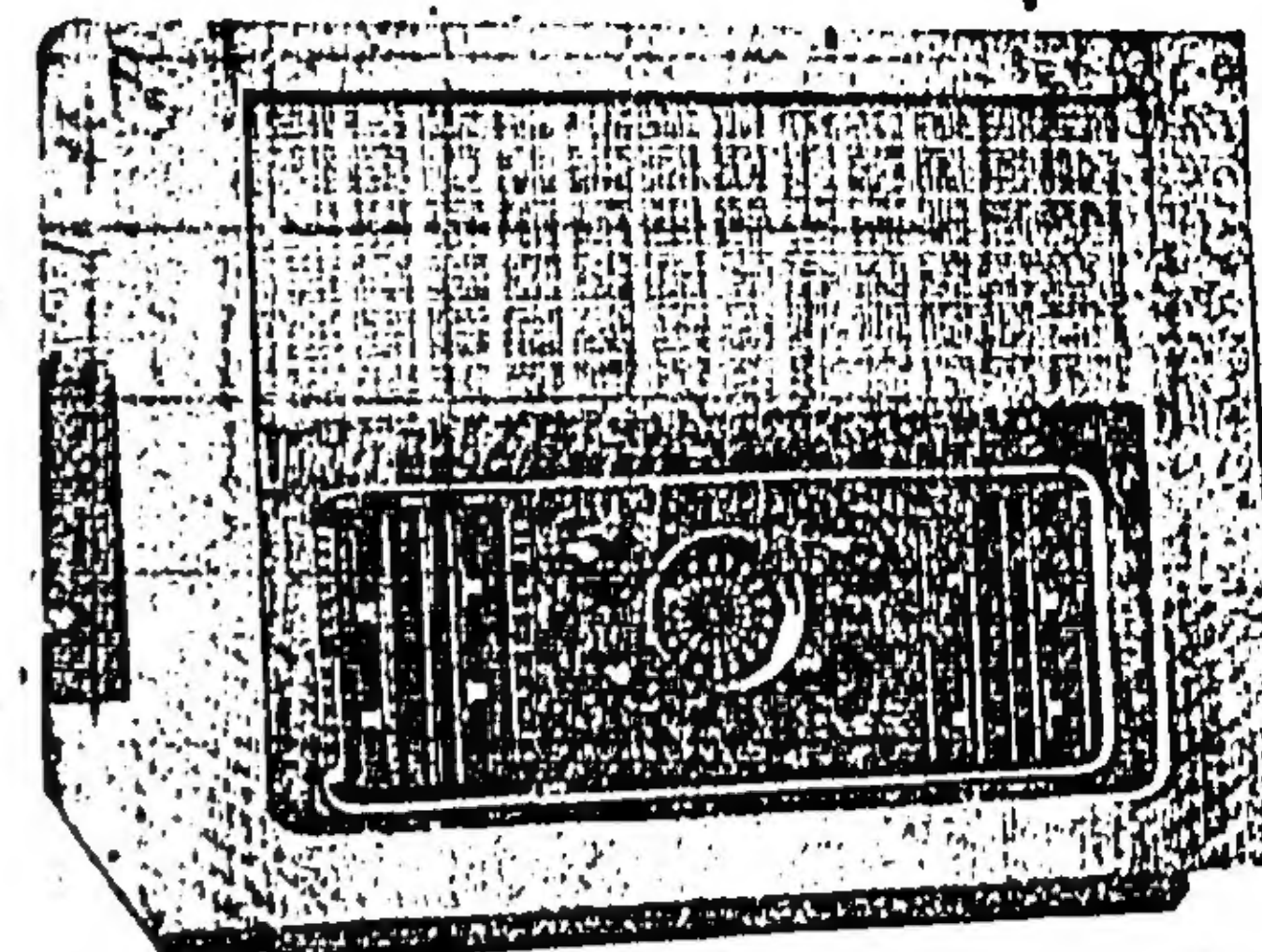
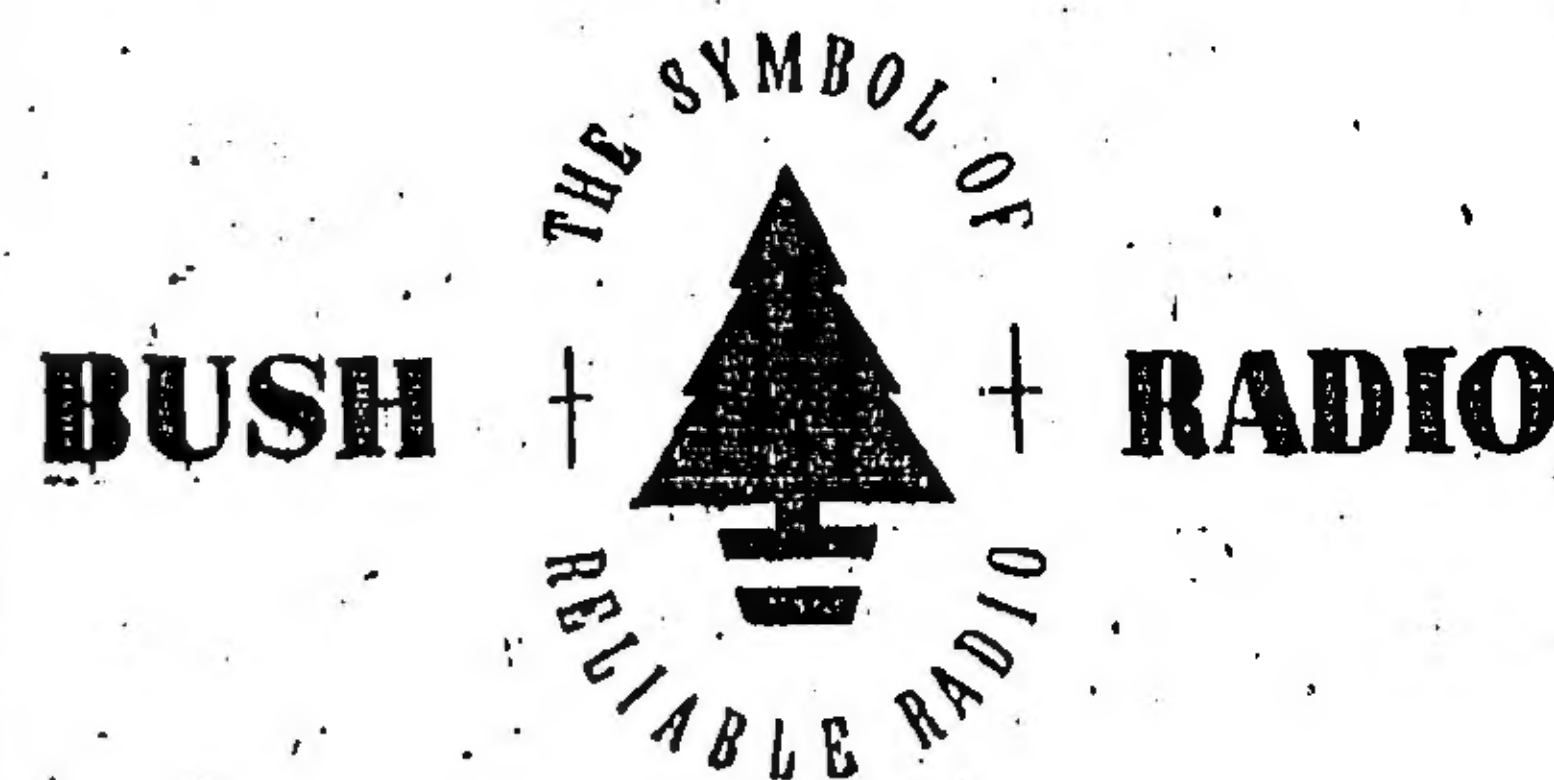
curtain was blown across and remained a little above it. From his cot the baby watched the film; grow brighter. He chuckled and sang to himself. Then his mother's voice came gently from the record: "Go to sleep, darling." He turned over and put his thumb in his mouth. But the brightness still fascinated him; he wanted to tell his mother about it. "Hush now, bye-byes," obediently he closed his eyes. A sudden intensity of light swept across his eyelids: the curtains were blazing. He opened his mouth to scream with sudden inexplicable fear, but across the lighted room came the trusted voice that was with him all day. "You're quite all right, Mamma's here." He looked about, where was she?

He didn't like it. The wind rushed round the corner and swept the fire across to the chest of drawers—cotton, wool, picture books. The baby was standing in his cot now, gripping the rail and shaking his eyes wide and black with fear, almost blinded by flame and across the "room" came the lullaby — "we'll put him away for a rainy day."

As they got off the bus she slipped his arm. The journey had passed in silence, but now it was as if she lay beneath the sharp needle, caught in the spinning grooves. "Did you hum that song we made up for the baby just then?" Her voice was edged; and he looked at her, startled. "Yes," he said. "I could have sworn you were singing it." For a moment they looked at one another. Then — "Taxi!" he shouted, "Taxi!"

ANSWERS TO CHILDREN'S PUZZLES IN PAGE 16

THE MESSAGE: The Message is: Happy Christmas to every one. REBUS: GAMES. (Sk Eight); BOOKS (B plus Books minus H); SARDINES (Sardines); CAT (Phone); BICYCLES (Buy Sickles).



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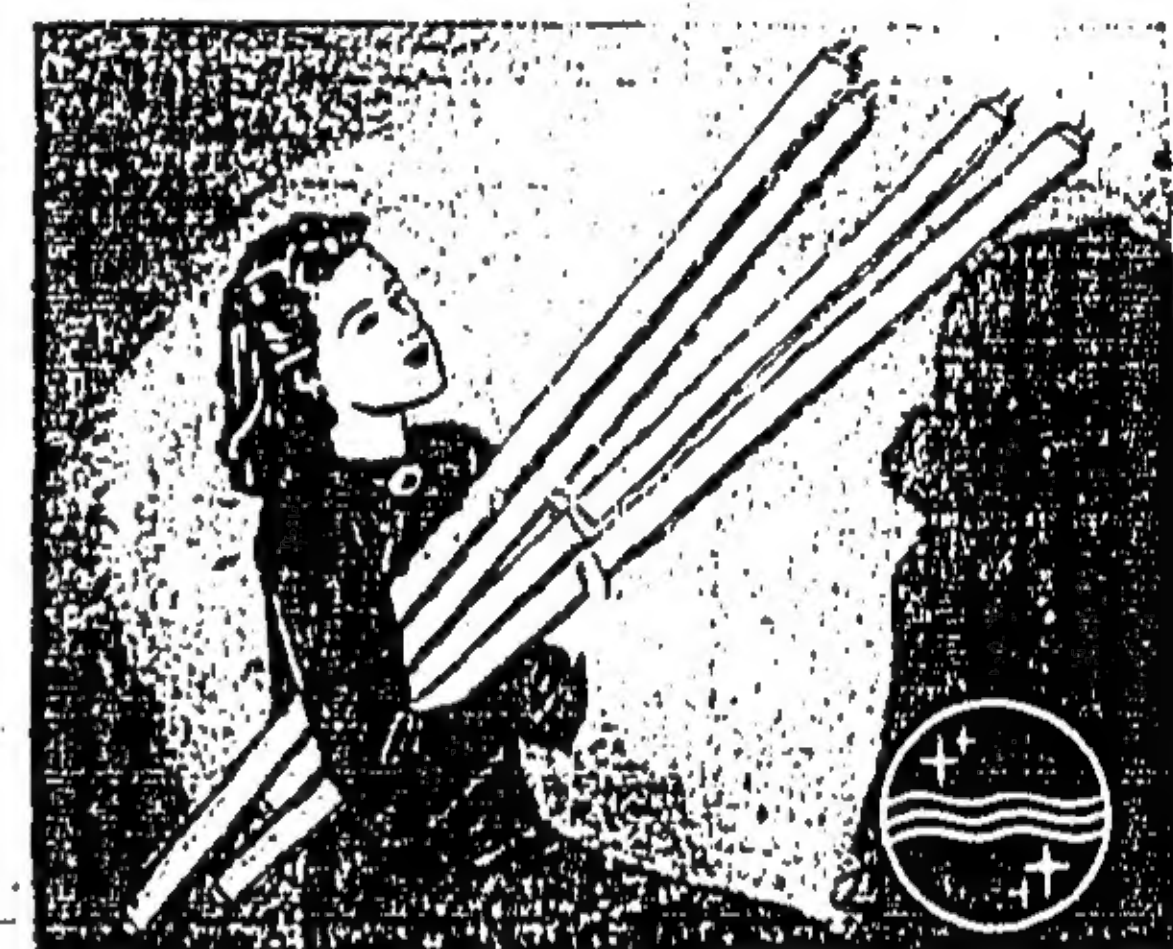
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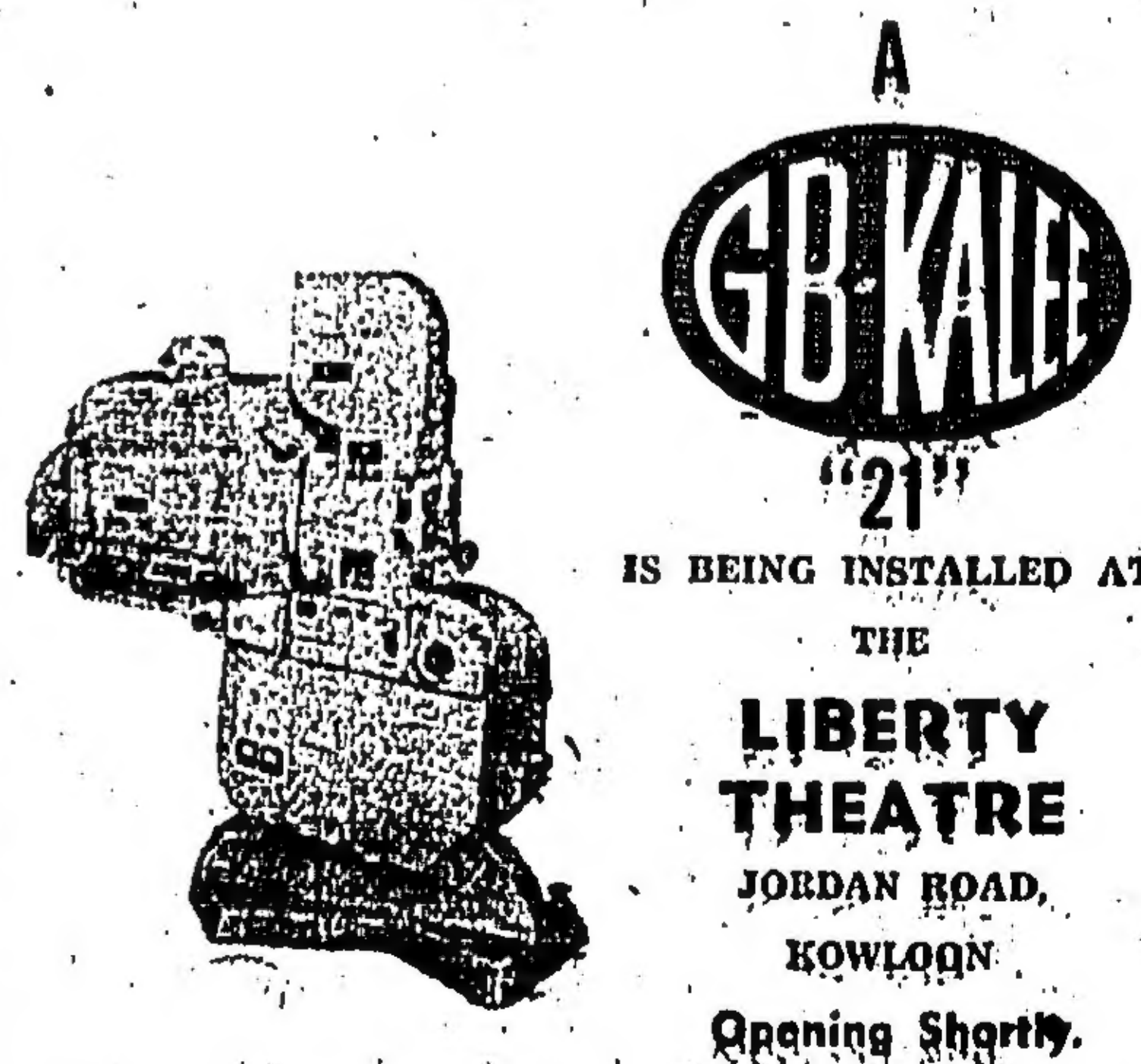
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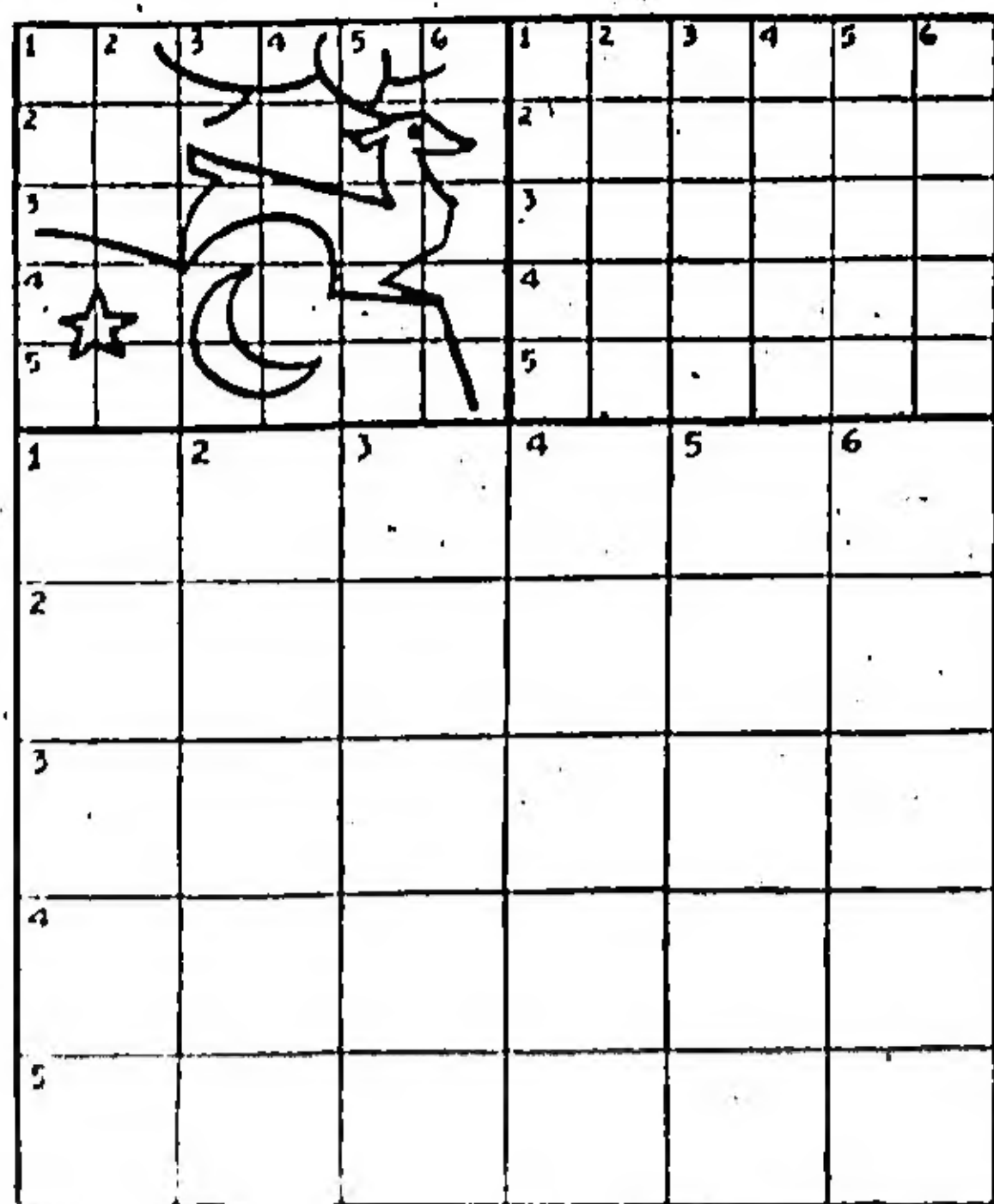
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CHILDREN'S PUZZLE CORNER

DOUBLE FUN

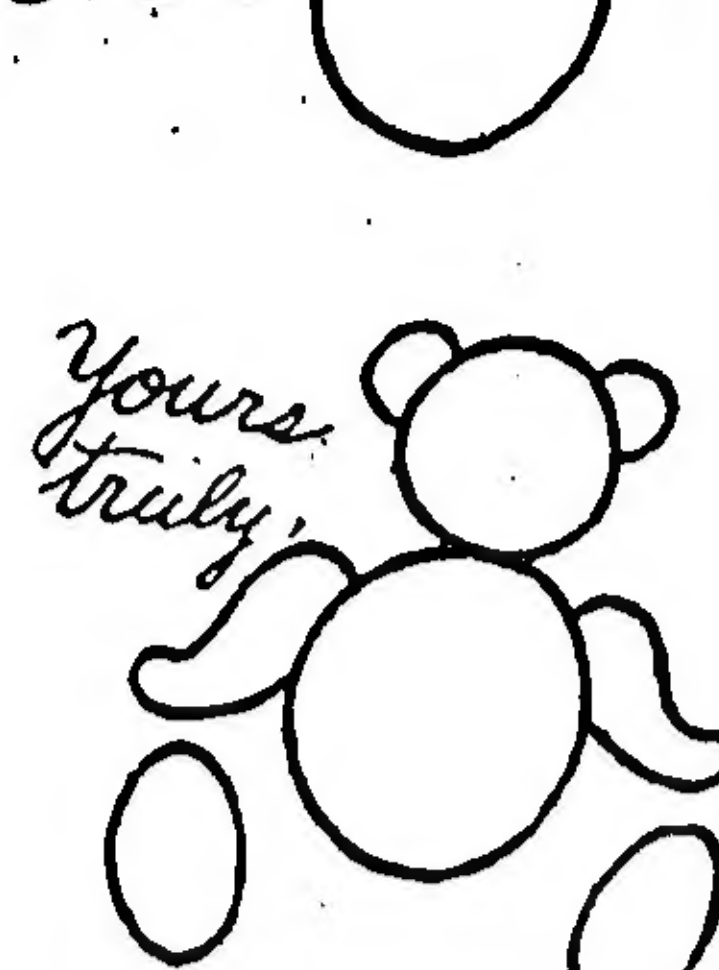
YOU CAN DRAW ONE OF SANTA'S REIN DEER, ACTUAL SIZE, AND ALSO ONE FOUR TIMES ITS SIZE, BY MAKING YOUR LINES CUT THE BOXES IN THE EXACT POSITIONS THEY DO IN THE ORIGINAL SKETCH.

SEE HOW EASY YOU CAN MAKE THE TWO PICTURES.

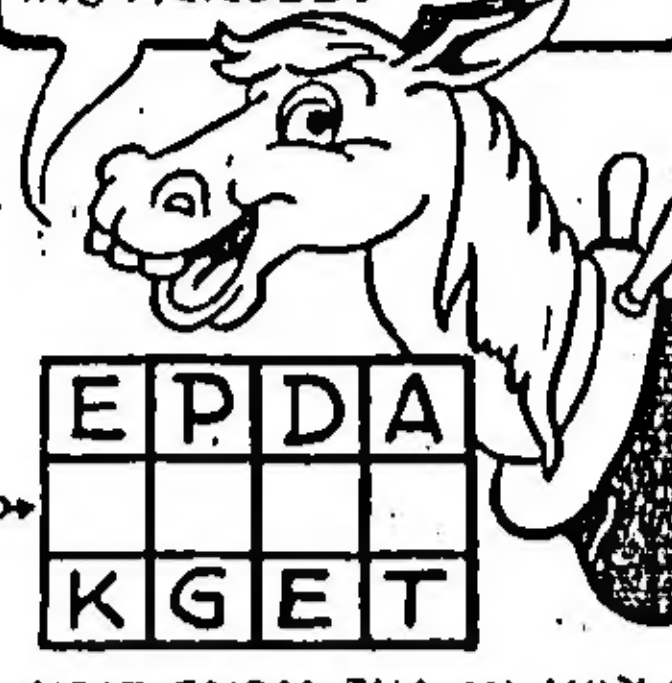


Hi! KIDS!

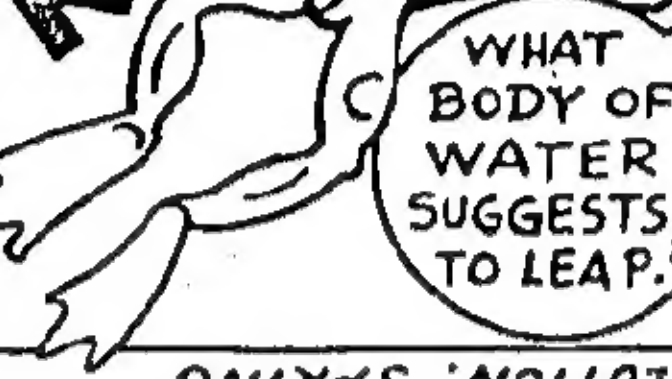
DRAW ME STEP BY STEP.



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RIDDLES



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Hill Gilland Here Tells The Story Of The Background And Origins Of CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The bands of cockney boys, the gangs of Yorkshire children who knock at the doors on Christmas Eve, and sing their carols, don't know that they carry on a 17 centuries old tradition. In all probability, they don't care. Nor are they unduly worried about the etymological origin of the word carol. A century ago the grown-ups got excited about an explanation which derived it from the latin words carere (to sing) and rota—an interjection expressing joy. Since then, scientists have presented us with a few more explanations from which to choose. Some suggest that the word came from chorus. Others ally it to carolla, a garland, circle or coronet, the earliest sense given to the word being probably "a ring dance". There is some suggestion in the word coronet of the very old tradition according to which the Danish and Anglo-Saxon kings "wore their crowns in public" on Christmas Eve. However, it is quite possible that the crowns of these early kings have nothing to do with the carols. The stress probably lies on the "ring dance", which used to take place in the churches as early as 300 A.D.



The crib, set up in the churches or even in private houses was the centre of the dance. Around the crib, with its earthen figures of the Holy Family, the ox and the ass, carols were sung and danced. These early carols were Latin Christmas hymns, written to dance tunes. Some of them are still sung now, having gained fame and popularity through the centuries. The French called them noels, the Germans Wiegellieder, and everywhere they represented an early Christian concession to pagan ritual, a break of the heathen joy of life into the defences of early Christian austerity.

Some of the Church leaders tried to stem the tide and warned the people against turning the Christmas celebrations into an orgy of feasting, singing and dancing. One of them, Gregory Nazianzen, lived in the fourth century. His call for reflection had political reasons, too. The still mighty enemies of Christianity regarded the noisy Christmas festivities as a provocation. The horrible massacre of Nicomedia in Bithynia, was still fresh in the memory of the Christian teachers. There, thousands of people—men, women and children, of all ages—had assembled in the temple, to commemorate the Nativity. At the height of the dancing and singing, troops on Diocletian's orders surrounded the temple, set fire to it. All those in the church were burned to death, but the murderous soldiery did not stop there. A wholesale massacre in the province followed and nearly 20,000 people perished within 24 hours.

There was, however, no church authority strong enough to put a complete stop to carolling, i.e. the combined exercise of dance and song. After the passing of a few more centuries, the memories of early Christian persecutions faded away altogether. Heathen countries and their kings were converted one after another and security was assured to most of those professing the Christian faith. The descendants of those who, in Pagan times, had been used to quaff great bowls of wine in honour of Thor or Odin, drank them to commemorate the Apostles, the Virgin and other sacred names. A number of early Anglo-Saxon carols are to all intents and purposes bachelors' songs. They could not have anything in common with that earliest Nativity carol mentioned in Luke (II, 14) which was sung by the angels, a scene so beautifully painted and carved by the greatest artists of the world.

The reaction to the pagan rites which kept creeping into Christmas carolling, weakened in proportion as the Christian power became stronger. It actually went to use a very modern terminology—underground, finding expression in popular legends, which had no authority whatsoever. One of these, of the 11th century, is related gravely by a contemporary historian. Fifteen young women and 18 young men were dancing and singing carols in the church-yard dedicated to St. Magnus on Christmas Eve, whereby they greatly disturbed Robert, the priest. He sent them word to desist, but they would not listen. As a punishment (a punishment for singing carols) the 33 young people were miraculously compelled to continue singing and dancing for a whole year, day and night, and though their clothes did not wear out, yet the ground beneath them did; it had worn away all round them to the depth of several feet, while they danced in a hollow.



The answers not included in this page will be found in Page Fifteen.



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